

return of the VIDEO NASTIES!

They were the most reviled movies of the video age, but now some of them are coming back on DVD! In the first of a long-running series of regular columns, DVD World reviews all of the original banned titles - and brings you an update on their current DVD availability!



AXE
This cheapo effort achieved its fifteen minutes of stardom by briefly featuring on the nasties list before the authorities came to their senses. Frederick R. Fiedel wrote, directed and also turns up as the youngest of a trio of psychos who terrorise the cashier of a small town



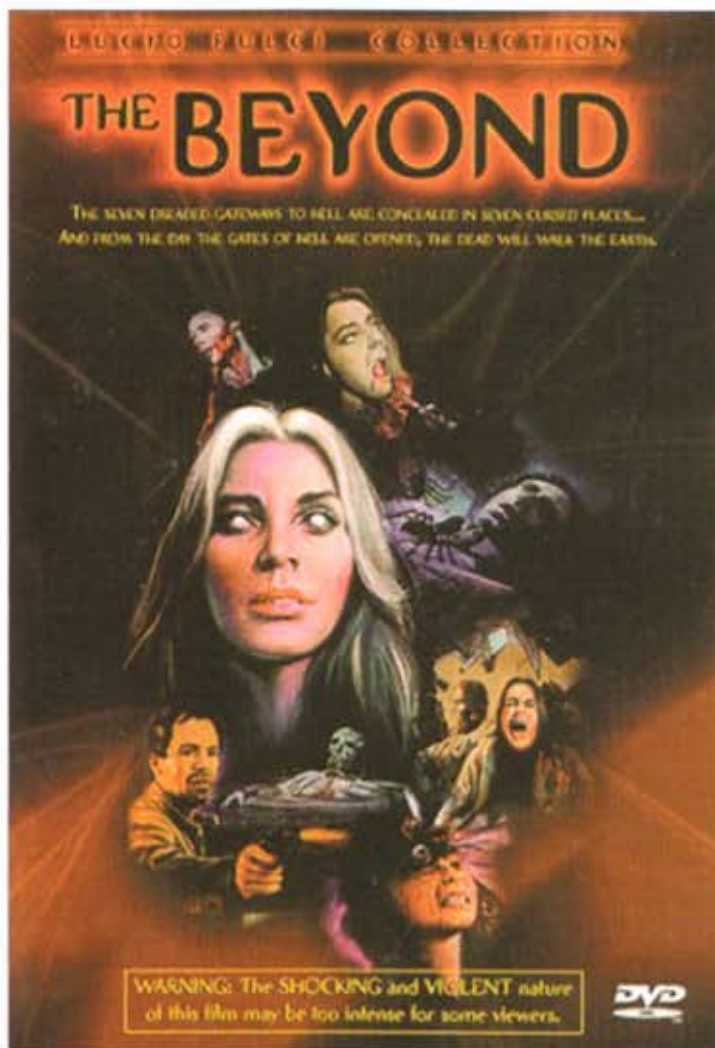
store, stripping her down to her undies and forcing her to play a nerve-wracking game of 'William Tell.' They then hole up in a lonely house inhabited by moody Southern belle Lisa (Leslie Lee) and her crippled grandfather. Two of the nutters rape Lee, which drives her over the edge in *I Spit On Your Grave* fashion and causes her to retaliate with axe and razor. In the early scenes the three gangsters terrorise a pair of homosexuals, forcing one to consume a lighted cigar before they execute them both. It's certainly nasty in tone, but the gore is as amateurish as the acting here, and the film hardly lives up to its alternate title of *The California Axe Massacre*, since only one guy actually gets offed with a chopper.

Current availability
The film was released last year on a region free NTSC DVD **Special Edition** by Image. Apart from a pristine fullscreen transfer (uncut), the disc boasts trailers, a making of, stills, and a documentary on mental health!



BEAST IN HEAT (THE)

One of the most elusive of so-called video nasties, this Italian-made concentration camp exploitationer contains the usual round of sadistic titillation, plus a few new wrinkles to please those who were getting concerned that they might have seen it all. The thin plot concerns a beautiful but evil female SS officer (Macha Magall) who has created a human Beast to carry out some sort of strange genetic experiment. As played by the grotesque Sal Boris (a regular in this genre), the Beast has little to do apart from screwing a choice selection of terrified-looking young women to death - not that this isn't nice work if you can get it! At one point he chews off a girl's pubic hair - now there's something we didn't see in *The Lover's Guide*. One woman is apparently eaten alive by guinea pigs, while another has her fingernails pulled



out with pliers. Meanwhile, the slinky Magall carries on like *Ilsa, She Wolf Of The SS*, prick-teasing the POWs and then cutting them off in their prime - ouch! Despite one or two memorable torture sequences this manages to be quite dull, and is frequently interspersed with boring stock footage of battle scenes taken from Italian potboilers that are even more anonymous than this. The same director made *Perversions Of The Third Reich*, which was also rubbish.

Current availability

This was one of the most elusive of nasties and it remains so on disc, though there are unconfirmed rumours that the rights have been bought by Media Blasters for a release later this year on their Shriek Show label.

BEYOND (THE)

One of the best of the Italian zombie epics sparked by the success of Romero's *Dawn Of The Dead*, this grisly affair apes the plot of Michael Winner's *The Sentinel* (1976) to good effect. It's an atmospheric tale about a hotel in Louisiana which stands on one of the seven entrances to hell - a gateway that eventually opens and provides the place with a horde of unwelcome zombie guests. Regular Lucio

Fulci heroine Catriona MacColl inherits the haunted hotel along with her helpmate, David Warbeck, and she has to endure a number of frightening supernatural manifestations before the ambiguous climax. The eerie end scenes see MacColl and Warbeck (both British performers, by the way) trapped in hell itself, a landscape foreshadowed in the painting which the former manager of the hotel was working on when he was crucified as a satanist - a gory event shown in the prologue. The plot doesn't really hang together, but there are some gory moments to treasure: a plumber has his eyes gouged out, a maid gets an acid facewash, a charlady's head is punctured by a nail that exits through her face, pushing her eye out, and a seeing-eye dog rips its mistress's throat out. Best of all, though is the bit where an army of venomous spiders appear from nowhere to strip a unfortunate guest's flesh from his bones. Possibly Fulci's finest movie.

Current availability

There are many European versions of this, but the only one we wholeheartedly recommend is Anchor Bay's superb restored **Special Edition**. With a documentary, stills, trailers and a fantastic 2.35:1 anamorphic transfer, this is the nicest treatment of a nasty possible!



Next month: **BLOOD BATH - and BLOOD FEAST!**

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BLOOD BATH

Starring:
Isa Miranda
Claudine Auger
Luigi Platilli
Laura Betti

Running time:
82 mins approx
Certificate "18"
Copyright: Hokushin
Audio Visual Ltd
2 Ambleside Avenue
London SW16 6AD

Produced by Giuseppe Zaccariello
Directed by Mario Bava

The day a group of pleasure-seeking teenagers wander into a deserted leisure centre coincides with the callous murder of the widow owner of the property. Her death is just the beginning of a blood bath.

VHS

They came seeking pleasure, they found death

Blood Bath



Blood Bath

VIDEO MOVIES™ from Hokushin

VM 75

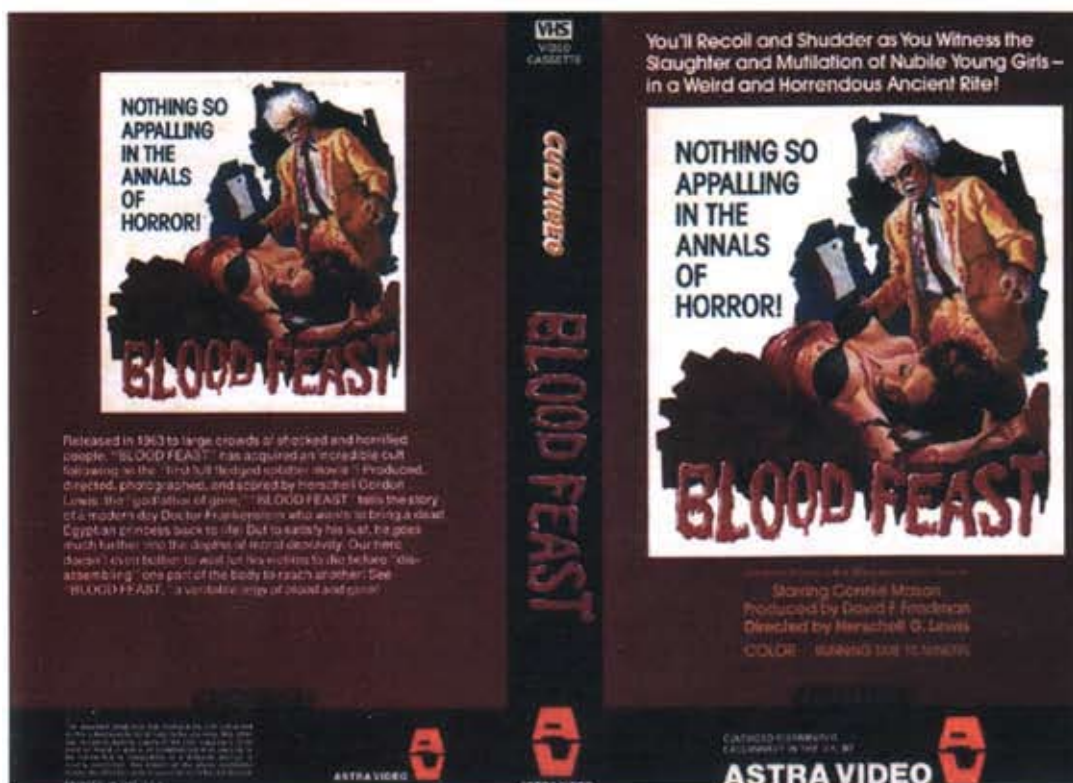
VIDEO MOVIES™ from Hokushin

BLOOD BATH

Some years before *Friday The 13th*, Italian horror stylist Bava (*Black Sunday*) made this *Ten Little Indians*-style stalk and slash shocker about a bunch of grasping

relatives who all murder each other, one by one, in the hopes of owning a very pleasant and desirable country mansion. The film can be looked upon as a gory black comedy, the punchline coming when the last two survivors are playfully

shot dead by their own two children. The '13 periods of intense shock' advertised by the makers takes in graphic sequence of people getting axes in the face and being stabbed repeatedly. In one scene two lovers are impaled on a spear that



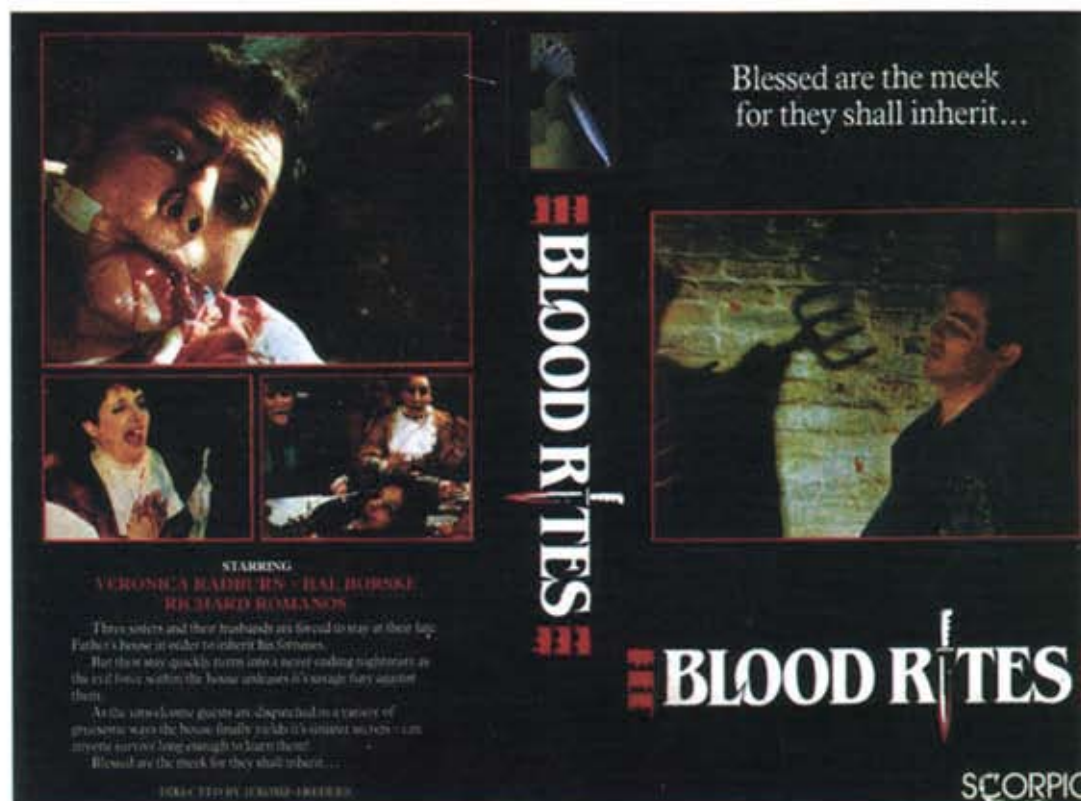
suddenly shoots up through the bed (a scene that was definitely pinched by the makers of *Friday The 13th*). Bava does his own camerawork and achieves some striking images of misty, pastel-coloured landscapes. One scene has a woman swimming in a lake and bumping into a floating corpse - Dario Argento used a similarly chilling sequence at the beginning of *Inferno*, a film which Bava also assisted on. Not one of Mario's best pictures, *Blood Bath* is nevertheless an interesting work that deserves to be seen.

Current availability

The film was released as a **Special Edition** by Image in 2001 under the title of *Twitch Of The Death Nerve*. This featured a nice 1.77:1 anamorphic transfer, biographies, filmographies, stills and a trailer. It is still available to order on import.

BLOOD FEAST

This notorious nasty from HG Lewis has the dubious distinction of being the first film to openly wallow in gratuitous gore - there weren't many movies as sick as this around in 1963! Of course the gore effects aren't exactly believable by today's standards, but the film still has a number of devotees - all of whom would be well advised to seek some kind of psychological assistance. The insipid plot details the activities of an insane caterer named Fuad Ramses (Mal Arnold). He prowls about mugging at the camera and hacking the limbs, tongues and brains out of his female victims in bloody close-up (the tongue he pulls out of one looks about five times too big for her mouth!). In the end the crazed



Ramses falls into the blades of a rubbish truck, leaving stolid copper Thomas Wood to comment: "He died a fitting death for the garbage he was!" If you can take lots of very bad acting, truly awful dialogue and inappropriate music just to get to the gore scenes then you're welcome to this. We prefer to pass. The doom-laden soundtrack music was composed by Lewis, and it's available on CD!

Current availability

The film was released in the UK last year on a region free PAL DVD as part of the **Tartan Terror H.G. Lewis Collection**. It featured an excellent widescreen transfer, liner notes and a stack of trailers from this and other Lewis classics. There's also a U.S. box set of *Blood Feast*, *2,000 Maniacs* and *Colour Me Blood Red* - providing an evening of bad movies to remember!

BLOOD RITES

Anyone who's ever had the misfortune of sitting through an Andy Milligan movie will know that moviemakers don't come any more inept than this (now-deceased) Staten island horror 'auteur'. *Blood Rites* is the UK video title for Milligan's *The Ghastly Ones*, and the film tells of three sisters and their husbands who turn up at their late father's house in the hopes of collecting an inheritance. Instead they get served up severed heads on plates and pitchforks in the neck by a loony retard who doesn't like visitors. The gore is extremely unconvincing, the acting is incredibly amateurish, and as usual Milligan always seems to put the camera where it can only see half of what's going on. The main psycho is called Colin, by the way, and he eats baby rabbits, fur and all!

Current availability

Thankfully very few of Andy Milligan's dreadful movies have ever escaped onto DVD - *The Body Beneath* and *Guru*, *The Mad Monk* being the only exceptions.

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BLOODY MOON

This typical Jess Franco abomination made it into the DPP hit list because of its lurid mix of sex and horror. But does Jess know how to make 'em any other way? The yawn-inducing plotline tells of a murderous couple who are out to sadistically slaughter attractive girl students at a Euro language school. Sex movie regular Olivia Pascal is the woman in peril, around whom the corpses pile up. Among the gore scenes on offer are scissor murders committed by a guy in a Mickey Mouse mask (we somehow suspect that Disney didn't get any royalties!), and a real, live snake being decapitated by a pair of shears. Contrived and unimaginative, the film has lots of those horrid zooms and jump-cuts

that signify the work of this nutty Spanish 'auteur.' It exists merely to showcase endless scenes of bared breasts and mutilated corpses (and why not?). The most famous splatter image is of a girl being fed through a sawmill, but that's not shown in any convincing detail. One of the more boring of the nasties, though Franco fans will no doubt find some redeeming value in it.

Current availability

The only way you'll currently find this on DVD is on an obscure Spanish import on the European Shock label. The disc is a bog standard one in 4:3 and seems to have been sourced from an old VHS tape. The only extras on it are a trailer for this and a softcore flick called **Linda**.

THE BOGEYMAN

This strange mixture of stalk and slash and art house movie made the nasties list but was later reissued with a few slight cuts. It's an imaginative effort from the director of **Tenderness Of The Wolves**, which begins with a **Halloween**-style flashback (complete with tinkly music) showing a youngster stabbing his mum to death with a carving knife. The youngster grows up to be a mute, while his sister (who is played by Suzanna Love, the wife of the director) has psychological problems of her own. Under hypnosis she starts imitating Linda Blair in **The Exorcist**, spitting out curses and threatening dire dangers in a croaky voice. The mute guy has now come to the conclusion that he was influenced by an evil mirror, so he goes around the house painting them all black. But Suzanna smashes one of the mirrors and a shard of glass finds its way into her handbag. We know from the fact that it's glowing red and there's a thumping heartbeat on the soundtrack that this can only mean bad luck - seven years' worth at least. Three kids bite the big one in typically contrived death scenes: one is guillotined by a falling window, one is battered by an item of furniture, and another is stabbed repeatedly with scissors. The best gore is saved for the old screwdriver-through-the-head routine, though there's also a nifty pitchfork killing if you're fond of that sort of thing. John Carradine turns up in a small role as a doctor - trust him! Pretty good of its type.

Current availability

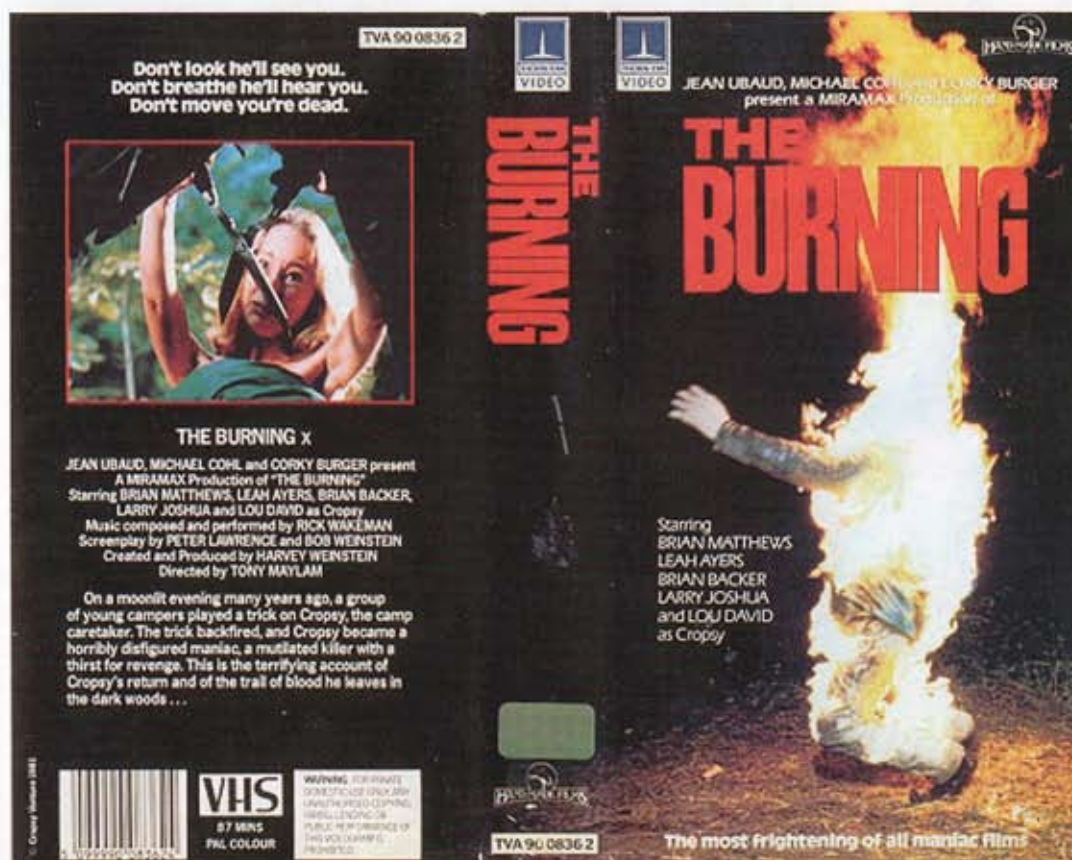
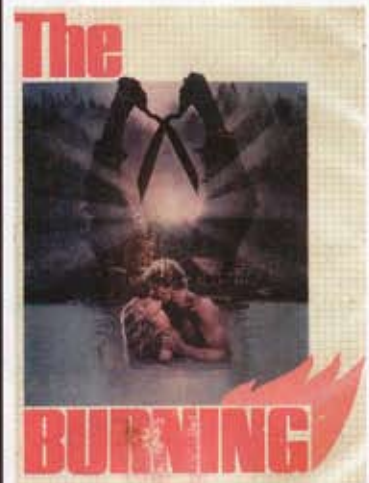
A special edition of this one is in the offing, with commentary by director Ulli Lommel - due out early next year. So hold out for that rather than buying the cheapie US version on the Pro-Active Entertainment label which is frankly a waste of money.

Video Nasties



Current availability

This one's out in the UK from VIPCO, and the quality is pretty much what you'd expect from this company - very mediocre! Lacking in extras and presented in the wrong screen ratio, it's only worth picking up if you can't wait for the American Special Edition



THE BURNING

It's difficult to think of a more derivative stalk and slash movie that this thoroughly predictable **Friday The 13th** clone featuring a horribly burned camp counsellor who comes back to kill and maim as many promiscuous teens as he can find. A caring hospital orderly describes the madman as "a fu**ing Big Mac, overdone!". Early on it looks like

the movie might give us a decent bit of sleaze in a scene where Lou David's "Cropsy" goes to visit a prostitute. Not surprisingly she takes one look at his melted cheese fizzog and suddenly develops a blinding headache. So he stabs her and throws her through a window. This one got itself included on the nasties list because of one scene where our demented hero snips off a

teen's fingers with a pair of garden shears. The effects are generally very good, but one would expect that from Tom Savini. What's not good about the film is its boring script, inept direction (by Tony Maylam, who went on to be fired from Rutger Hauer's **Split Second**), and overdone Rick Wakeman soundtrack music. See **Friday The 13th** again instead.

Next month: Rumbles in the Jungle: **CANNIBAL APOCALYPSE**, AND **CANNIBAL FEROX!**

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The make-up (by **Zombie Flesh-Eaters** man Gianetto De Rossi) is excellent. Pondering to the public's conception of Vietnam vets as homicidal time bombs just waiting to explode, this delivers the goods as a hard-edged blood and guts action thriller.

Released uncut by Anchor Bay in the USA last year as a Region 0 disc. AB present the film in an immaculate 1.66:1, anamorphic transfer which has a bright, colourful (though grainy in places) image. Extras on the disc include **Cannibal Apocalypse Redux**, an exclusive documentary featuring John Saxon, John Morghen and director Antonio Margheriti. Then there's **Apocalypse in the Streets**, a video tour of filming locations, plus trailers, a poster and stills gallery, cast and crew filmographies etc.

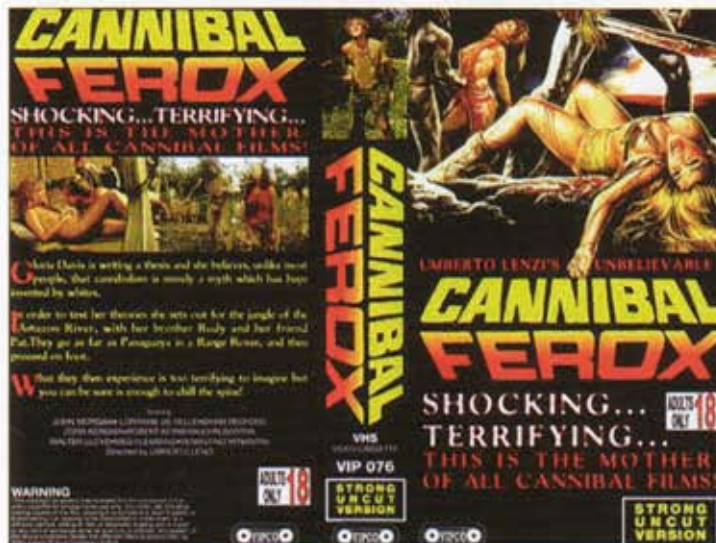
This extremely gruesome yarn, one of the best Cannibal movies (if that's any kind of recommendation!) is actually in **The Guinness Book Of Records** as having been "banned in 31 countries," and one of them is the UK! The movie follows the traditional formula for jungle gut-crunchers, with lots of cruelty to animals and people. It tells of two attractive college girls and a boyfriend who go to Columbia in search of evidence that cannibalism is a mere myth perpetrated by whites. Er... not too good a guess, as it happens.

Once there they fairly soon end up as the dish of the day on the cannibal menu after joining forces with a demented drug dealer who has brutally tortured the locals. The ghastly gourmets take revenge by hanging one of the gals up by her breasts in a grisly reverse on **A Man Called Horse**, and chopping bad guy John Morghen's arm and dick off before

War is hell, and it can also give you a hell of an appetite! This grim and gory horror tale crossbreeds the Vietnam war and cannibal movie genres to potent effect. Shot in Atlanta by an Italian crew, the storyline opens in Vietnam, where American officer John Saxon (later of **A Nightmare On Elm Street**) leads a low-budget skirmish into enemy territory and rescues two of his men from a bamboo trap. To his disgust he notes that the lads have been feeding from the flesh of a Vietnamese peasant. Rather foolishly he reaches down to help them out of their hole in the ground and is rewarded by one of them taking a nasty chunk out of his arm. Of course we all know what that

means in this kind of movie, and sure enough, much later, back in Atlanta, Saxon discovers he has also developed a taste for human munchies. He meets up with his two old cannibal buddies, and they set off on an orgy of violence, nibbling on nurses and snacking on a motorcycle gang.

This is a movie for hardcore gore freaks, and features eyeballs being squished, stomachs being ripped out, plus an unforgettable scene where John Morghen (a regular victim in this genre - see also the following review) is shotgun-blasted in the stomach. The camera then gives us a nice view of the daylight that you can see through the football-sized hole in his gut! Scenes like this earned the movie an X-rating in the States and a

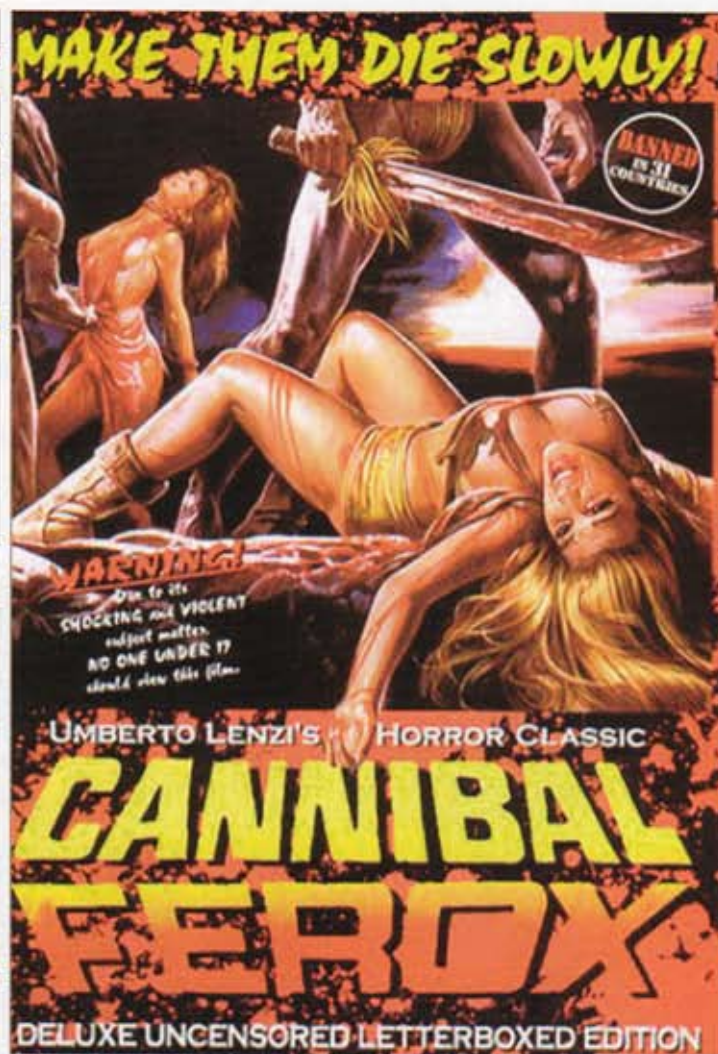


slicing open the top of his skull like a breakfast egg. They then scoop out what little brains he possesses - sunny side up.

As with many others of its ilk, the film tries to avoid accusations of racism by presenting the whites as more brutal and depraved than the cannibals, who after

all are only following the dictates of their Atkins-style diet.

Almost on a par with **Cannibal Holocaust** in the graphic gore stakes, this is gruelling stuff that is most assuredly not for the squeamish. Watch it at your own risk.



Current availability:

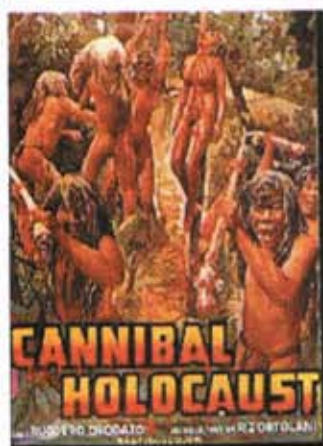
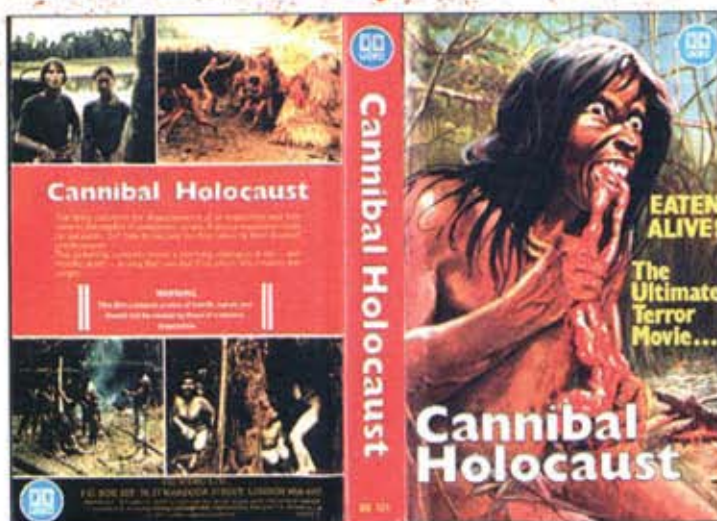
There are a number of European versions of this, but the way to go is with the NTSC Region O disc from Grindhouse Releasing. This presents the film in its original Italian language with English subtitles in a splendid anamorphic 1.85:1 print. The disc also contains a commentary by John Morghen and director Umberto Lenzi, and there are production stills and trailers, an on-camera interview with Lenzi, and some grisly Easter Egg surprises!



Next month: More juicy jungle japes in the gruelling **CANNIBAL HOLOCAUST!**

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CANNIBAL HOLOCAUST

One of the first and most effective of all cannibal gut-crunchers, this grim 1979 movie tries to increase the viewer's sense of dread by pretending that it's a documentary consisting of "found" footage depicting the brutal fate of a camera crew ventured too deep into cannibal country. This fake "snuff" movie (complete with scratches, jumps and awkward zooms) makes up the bulk of the film's running time. It also shows the makers of the film-within-a-film to be smug, snotty, spoiled and sporting a very mean streak which is unfortunately generally directed at helpless animals.

In an early scene they drag a huge turtle to shore and summarily behead it, ripping it apart in gruesome closeup. We also get to see pigs being shot, a muskrat getting a hunting knife through his gut and out of the top of his head, and of course we are treated to the obligatory feasting on a monkey's brains.

On the human cruelty front, we witness a choice scene where a foetus is ripped out of a woman's womb and buried in mud, and

the torching of a native village with women and children trapped in the flames. "Beautiful! It's beautiful!" cry the thrill-hungry filmmakers as they photograph the carnage.

The gore is extreme and ranges from the amputation of somebody's penis to a hacking off of a leg with a machete, and all the usual disembowelings and eye-gougings that make you wonder why cannibals never get told off for playing with their food. There is also a very gross shot of a woman impaled on a stake with its sharpened point exiting her mouth. But in many ways the gore is easier to stomach than Deodato's meaty-mouthed, "who are the real savages?" lament, so he can pretend to condemn what he is really exploiting. It may be very effective, but it leaves you with a bad taste.

If you have never seen it, a first viewing will likely confirm every negative thing you have heard about it, with characters who relinquish all vestiges of their humanity and filmmakers who will stop at virtually nothing, including actual animal slaughter, to show it to us. Yet the film stands as one of the unqualified masterpieces of the genre - a



complex and gruelling experience that will leave you exhausted in the end.

Current availability

Even today, finding a copy of this film is relatively difficult... you know you're not gonna see it at your local Blockbuster. If you want to see this one, you're gonna have to work for it... which is sort of the way it

A group of four award winning documentary film makers, go on an expedition to Amazonia documenting tribes that practice cannibalism. They are never heard from again. Anthropologist professor Monroe, his guide and assistant attempt an expedition in hopes of uncovering the truth about what happened to the explorers. The corpse of their guide is discovered and they witness crude and violent punishment by the natives. The jungle is ruled by two rival cannibal tribes and they are soon confronted with both of them.

A trade movement fashioned from the remains of the previous expedition and pieces of camera equipment is discovered. Cannibals of undeveloped film are retrieved from the cannibals and taken back to New York.

Thus the shocking truth of the film makers exploitation of the natives is revealed. They were sadistic, vicious, and least safely on what spectacular sights they could capture on film.

«Possibly the most disturbing film ever made»

CANNIBAL HOLOCAUST

Starring ROBERT KIRBY, FRANCISCA CANDE, PUPPY PROHANN
Director of photography SERGIO LEONE
Edited by VINCENZO TOMASE
Story and Screenplay by GIANFRANCO CATTOL
Special effects by ALDO GASPARI
Music by RIZ ORTOLANI
Produced by F.B. cinematografi 5
Directed by RUGGERO DEODATO

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Picture and Soundtrack newly remastered (2000) from Original Negatives
- Still and Artwork gallery
- 2 Theatrical Trailers
- English and Dutch Subtitles
- Filmography, Biography and Interview with Ruggero Deodato

1982 1479 Steven Rotti Book 125 movie scenes more scenes Canon Black Widow Drive-In

ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION

DOLBY DIGITAL 1.85:1 16

www.eurohorror.com

Deluxe Collector's Edition

CANNIBAL HOLOCAUST

EC 1088 DVD



should be. Seeing a film like **Cannibal Holocaust** is sort of like joining a select club - only certain fans with the diligence necessary to go to the ends of the earth to find a copy need apply. And when you do find it and see it, you can secretly gloat in the knowledge that you've seen a film that would make the average **Scream** fan puke. Having said that, there are a couple of different versions of **Holocaust** out

there. The best known is EC Entertainment's region free European disc, which sports an anamorphically enhanced 1.85:1 transfer. Considering the age of the film, it looks quite good. Colours look accurate, and the print appears relatively free of damage aside, of course, from the damage that Deodato purposefully inflicted upon the documentary footage to give it an air of cinema verite realism.

As with image quality, the Dolby Digital audio of this disc leaves us with very little to complain about. Dialogue sounds quite clear, with little in the way of hisses and pops to distract us. The gorgeous soundtrack by Riz Ortolani calls for slightly better presentation, but at times it sounds somewhat tinny. EC offers us a nice selection of extras, beginning with two interviews conducted with Deodato. His son conducts

the first interview, recorded in September of 1998, while the second comes to us courtesy of Martin Coxhead, who interviewed Deodato at Eurofest 98. In both interviews, Deodato comes across as quite personable, particularly in his son's interview, where we see the two laughing and joking with one another. In these interviews, Deodato discusses subjects ranging from how he achieved a documentary quality for the film, to Sergio Leone's admiration for the final cut. Other extras include a still gallery, two trailers, one in English and the other in German, giving us an opportunity to see how different countries marketed this controversial film.

But if you're looking for the ultimate DVD edition of **Cannibal Holocaust**, it's to Italy you must cast your sights! A brand new Italian **Special Edition** gives us the best version of the film we could ever hope for, but with one small problem - for some reason there are a couple of seconds missing from the infamous **Last Road To Hell** documentary showing real-life executions by firing squad!

Picture quality is stunning to say the least, easily the best I've ever seen this film look. This high level of video quality is really important to how the film plays out. The footage from the city and in the jungle that is not part of the 'documentary' is of stunning quality, with sharp, vibrant colours and no grain or print damage. The documentary footage is slightly grainy with

some spots and blemishes (this was shot on 16mm). The contrast in quality really gives the 'mondo' footage the upper edge and makes it seem all the more disturbing and realistic. The shifts in quality between the mondo footage and the 'film' itself really stand to enhance the experience of watching **Cannibal Holocaust**. The fly in the ointment here is the non-removable Italian subs over the English track. Audio is offered in two Italian tracks (standard surround and Dolby Digital 5.1) and an English mono track. The English track is acceptable, but not outstanding. Distortion is minimal, except for some high-end noise, overall it gets the job done and is comparable to previous editions of the film. There are plenty of extras here, but you need to speak Italian to get the most out of them. That's right, no English subs or tracks for most of these goodies. There are a couple of trailers and a radio spot (English) in addition to a 3-minute piece on the restoration of the film, with no dialogue, just music. There's also an hour-long documentary, only in Italian, and an audio commentary featuring Deodato, Italian only as well. If you can afford to spend around thirty smackers for this gut-wrenching treat, head on over to **xploit-edicinema.com** for further details! ■

Next month: You're invited to lunch with THE CANNIBAL MAN - and you're the afters!

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CANNIBAL MAN

A gloomy, depressing Spanish movie which tells of a disturbed young man (Vincente Parra) whose senses have been brutalised by his job in a local slaughterhouse (cue lots of horrid abattoir footage). One day he cracks and kills a cab driver. Then he strangles his girlfriend (who witnessed the dirty deed), tops his brother, and cuts his brother's fiancée's throat when the latter discovers the bodies under the bed in his apartment. After killing his father with a cleaver in the face, and slaughtering a visiting prostitute, his apartment is getting a bit like the morning after at Custer's Last Stand, so he tries to dispose of the bodies in a meat grinder. At this point our harassed hero is visited by a homosexual young man who has witnessed the killings from a nearby window and offers to help bury the evidence. Burnt out, the killer decides he might as well turn himself in, instead. Opportunities existed to make this a black comedy, but it has more of the atmosphere of a bleak Spanish version of Polanski's *Repulsion*. Murky but intriguing, with some very poor effects - just freeze-frame that machete-in-the-face and you'll see it for the glued-on plastic novelty it so obviously is!

Current availability

This Spanish-made Nasty was reissued on video by Redemption Films but in a cut version that removed some of the early slaughterhouse footage and trimmed the axe-in-the-face gore murder. The quality was good, apart from that. But it was down to Anchor Bay USA to bring us the definitive uncut **Cannibal**

THE CANNIBAL MAN

Murky, bloody, and running past attached to the local slaughterhouse. Every day he must wade through rivers of blood down seemingly endless rows of disjunct animal carcasses, to pick up the meat his plant produces.

One evening he kills a taxi driver at his desk, and then disposes with his strangled girlfriend and the only witness to the crime. When the girl's friend tries to find her he kills her as well, and before he knows it he has the blood of several victims on his hands. He disposes of their bodies as a manner he had learned at work, cutting them to pieces and stuffing them into the plant's meat grinder.

This one work in the life of a murderer is a fascinating character study of a frightened man whose chain of homicides is more worthy of our pity than our condemnation.

Runningtime: 86 minutes



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THE CANNIBAL MAN



WHEN
THE BUTCHER
GOES BERSERK....

ALIAS INTERNATIONAL presents
ELOY DE LA IGLESIA'S

THE
CANNIBAL MAN

Man in the year 2000.

As far as image quality is concerned, Anchor Bay always shines in this department and their region free disc presents the film in its original theatrical ratio of 1.85:1 (16x9 enhanced). Colours are a bit faded, but that is to be expected from a 1971 film. The transfer is very clean, with almost no blemishes appearing, and the image is sharp and clear throughout.

Anchor Bay went for a standard DVD release on this one, providing just a theatrical trailer on the DVD itself. Included with the DVD is a small insert that gives some background on Spanish cinema and director Eloy De La Iglesia. To be honest, if this was resubmitted today it would almost certainly get through uncut.

CANNIBAL TERROR

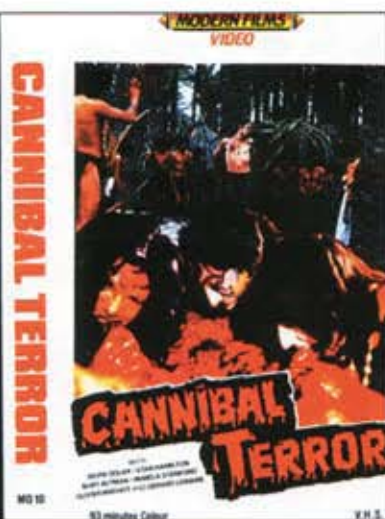
One of the most inept cannibal movies ever made, this dull, pathetic, French-made effort concerns a bunch of small-time crooks who kidnap the daughter of a local big-wig and hightail it into the jungle, where they fall foul of a gang of flesh-eating cannibals. The usual carnage ensues. The cannibals have very odd hairstyles for jungle types, and they can hardly keep a straight face as they tuck into patently false plastic tummies stuffed with what looks like chicken and rice in barbecue sauce. Shot on the same sets as Jess Franco's *White Cannibal Queen*, the film has a few decent gore scenes but they have little impact when located in such a boring plot. The moving finale sees the tribal chief serving up a suitable epitaph for the gangsters, and

indeed anybody who has been foolish enough to sit through the film: "They got all the punishment they deserved," he says, "and all the pain and suffering that was coming to them." Amen.

Current availability

When you sit down to watch this film nowadays you may wonder what kind of magic mushrooms were growing on the roof of the BBFC building to delude them into slapping this with a banned rating! It seems likely that the use of the word 'Cannibal' in the title brought the red mist on and they chucked it out without even bothering to view it. In 2003 the UK-based Hardcore label submitted it to the BBFC and were given an 18 certificate with no cuts required. The Hardcore disc gives us an anamorphic widescreen version in its

Video Nasties



original 1.85 ratio with English audio. Extras are a gallery of video sleeves for the film and trailers for **I Spit On Your Grave**, **Demonium**, **Don't Mess With My Sister**, **Nutbag**, **Bangkok Hell** and **Reign In Darkness**. The picture quality is a bit grainy in places, but it's generally quite a nice looking transfer, with good colour and contrast levels. The problem is, this is such a godawful movie that even die-hard fans of cannibal gut crunchers will find it tough to sit through without hitting the fast-forward.

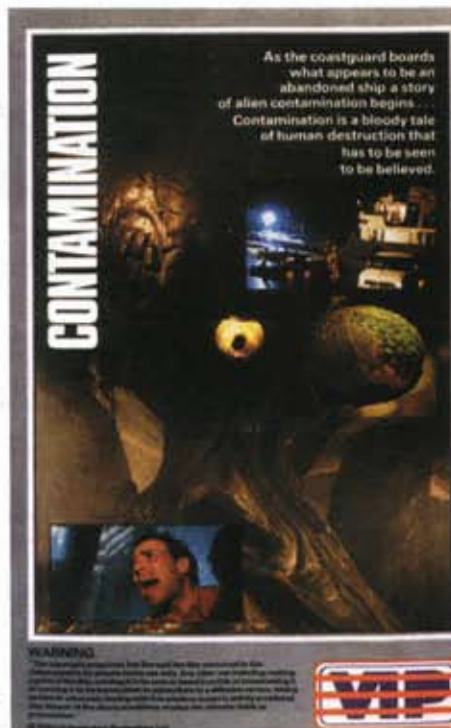
CONTAMINATION

A cheap and cheerful rip-off of **Alien** concocted by Argento-protege Luigi Cozzi, this entertaining potboiler has one decent gore effect involving people's stomachs exploding dramatically outwards in slow motion - and boy, does Cozzi get some mileage out of it! The opening scene sees a ship drifting into New York harbour containing a hold full of mysterious eggs that look like watermelons (they are actually painted balloons). When these things pop apart - as they do frequently - they shower bystanders with a sticky liquid that causes immediate inflation of the belly and - SPLAT - animal guts everywhere! It turns out the eggs are being sent down from Mars by a laughable one-eyed alien blob who has his headquarters in a Colombian coffee factory. Luckily, boozy astronaut McCulloch (of **Zombie Flesh-Eaters** fame) is on hand to join forces with sexy Louise Marleu and settle the alien's hosh. The scene where an alien egg almost catches the sultry Marleu in the shower plumbs new heights of hilarity - why doesn't she just run out instead of cowering in the corner? The plot has some similarities to **Quatermass II** in the scenes where an army of brainwashed radiation-suited zombies harvest the deadly eggs. Not as bad as its reputation suggests, this one has an effective score by Goblin and is quite fun on a junk movie level.

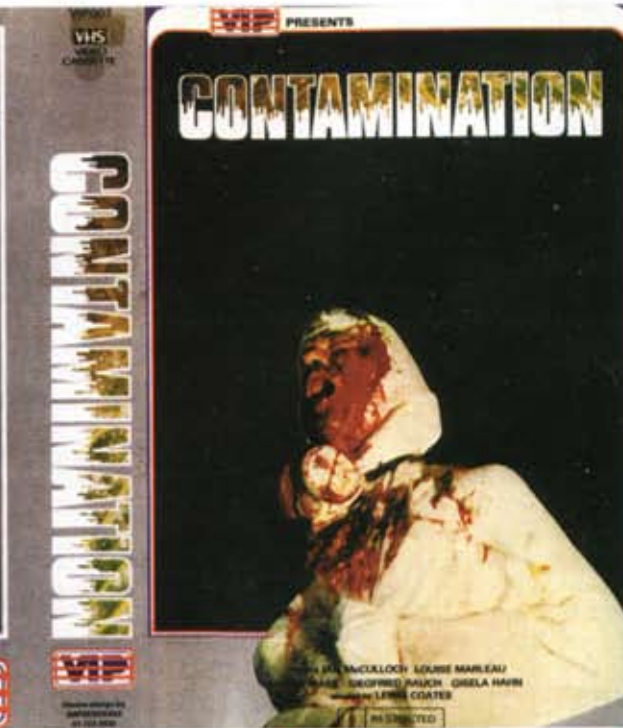
Current availability

This film is probably the most dramatic example of how the BBFC and the DPP got

it all wrong back in the Nasties days. Lots of cuts were made to the film by the distributors prior to the VRA, and then the BBFC stuck their oar in and reduced the running time further, cutting it down by about 2 minutes and 40 seconds. The biggest cut was made to the opening sequence showing several men graphically exploding after tampering with alien pods. But when the complete film was re-presented to the BBFC by Anchor Bay in 2003 it was passed fully uncut - with a 15 certificate! The disc of **Contamination** was sourced in the US and Italy by Bill Lustig's Blue Underground, and it's a great-looking transfer. The new 5.1 Dolby Digital Surround audio isn't entirely bad either considering the film wasn't originally made with that specification. As for extras, Blue



Underground came through with some amazing material, including an 18-minute retrospective interview with co-writer/director Luigi Cozzi and a longer



Next month: The horror continues with *Dead and Buried* and *Tobe Hooper's Death Trap*!

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return of the VIDEO NASTIES!

The
creators
of **ALIEN**...

...bring a
new terror
to Earth.



DEAD & BURIED

It will take your breath away...all of it.



RICHARD R. ST. JOHNS PRESENTS
A RONALD SHUSETT PRODUCTION
DEAD & BURIED

STARRING JAMES FARENTINO MELBOY ANDERSON AND JACK ALBERTSON

SCREENPLAY BY RONALD SHUSETT AND DAN O'BANNON BASED UPON A STORY BY JEFF MILLAR AND ALEX STERN PRODUCED BY RONALD SHUSETT AND ROBERT FENTRESS DIRECTED BY GARY A. SHERMAN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER RICHARD R. ST. JOHNS MUSIC BY JOE RENZETTI EDITOR STAN WINSTON EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JOHN W. HYDE
JAVO EVANSLEY PICTURES PRESENTS

DEAD AND BURIED

A series of gruesome murders committed in the sleepy little New England town of Potter's Bluff baffle sheriff James Farentino, and he's even more flabbergasted when the victims return as zombies! This imaginative chiller has an unusual and

effective script by Ron Shusett and Dan O'Bannon (most famous for scripting *Alien*) and some quirky touches in the characterisation. Jack Albertson steals the show in his last role as a jovial mortician with a liking for 1940s swing music. It seems that jolly Jack has discovered a way to revive the dead, and the walking

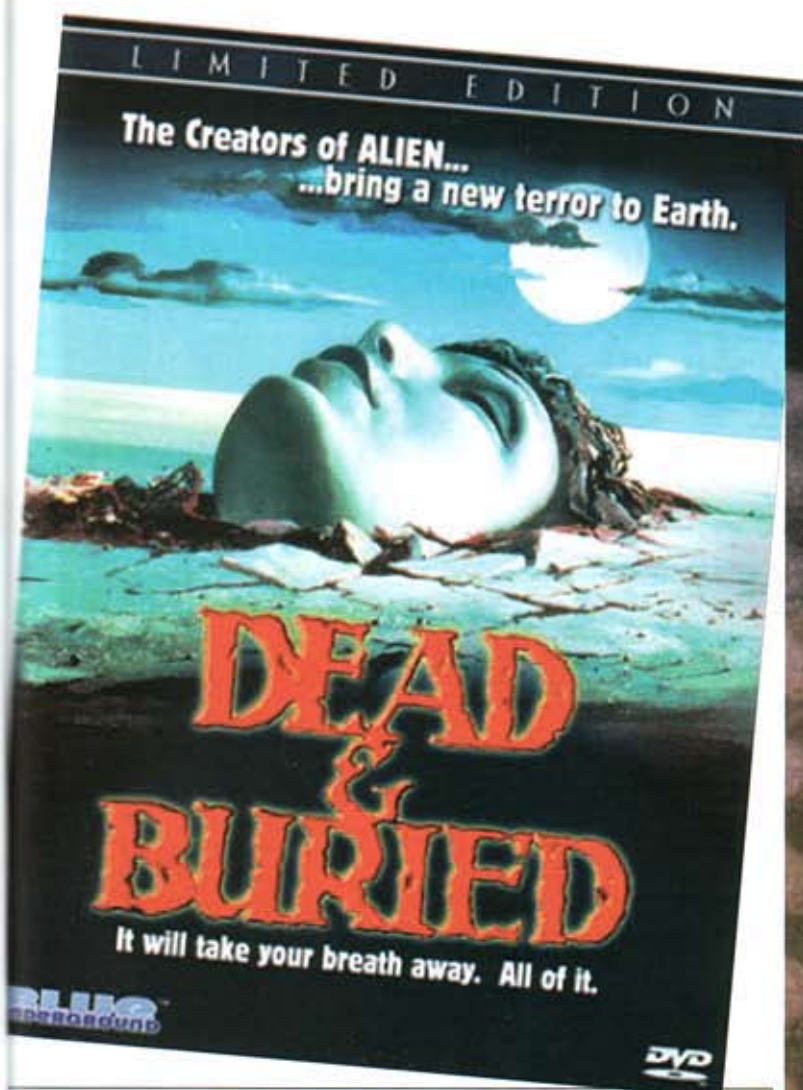
corpses are so grateful for this that they are going around killing anyone who passes through the town! Some of the plot twists are confusing, but splatter fans get their money's worth with future makeup and effects superstar Stan Winston (who went on to work on the *Alien* and *Terminator* movies) serving

up graphic burnings, batterings, acid injections and a show-stopping sequence in which a nurse shoves a hypodermic right through some poor schmuck's eye - ouch, that's gotta hurt! Good atmospheric, and neat direction by Gary (Death Line) Sherman make this underrated movie well worth seeking out.



Sheriff James Farentino (also seen right) uncovers another mutilated murder victim in Gary Sherman's *Dead and Buried...*
Top: It's only a little prick...

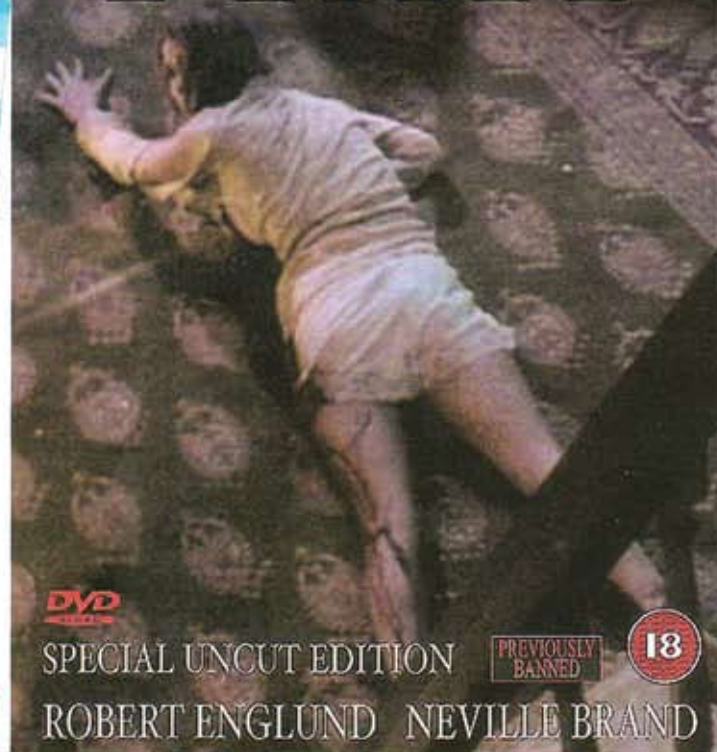


**DVD Availability.**

Shown at cinemas across the UK before it was released on video and promptly attracted the DPP's attention, **Dead And Buried** was always a borderline nasty. It was re-released in 1999 with all previous cuts restored, including the graphic Lucio Fulci-style shot of a needle being thrust into an eyeball! In 2003 the US distributor Blue Underground issued a Special Edition DVD featuring a brand new transfer in 1.85:1 anamorphic widescreen, plus a remastered soundtrack in 2.0 Dolby Surround, 5.1 Dolby Digital EX, and 6.1 Dolby Digital

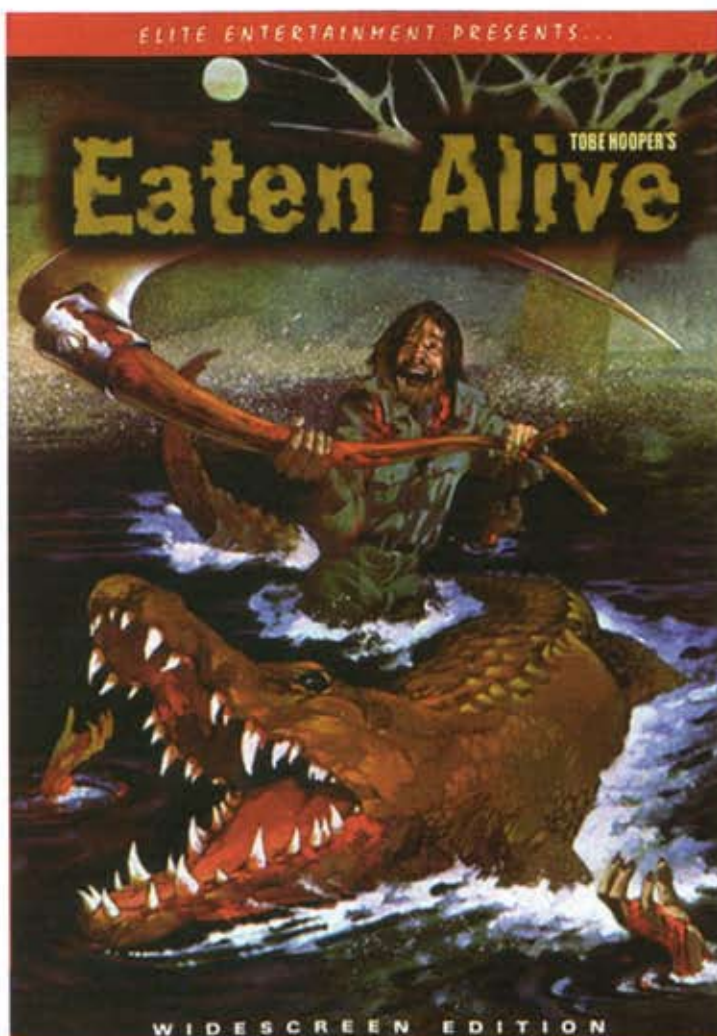
EX. Special features on the lavish double disc set include a lively commentary with director Gary A. Sherman, an additional commentary with co-writer/co-producer Ronald Shusett and actress Linda Turley, plus a commentary with cinematographer Steve Poster. Other goodies in this bargain package include theatrical trailers, a poster and still gallery, Stan Winston's **Dead And Buried FX**, plus Robert Englund on the movie, and a feature entitled **Dan O'Bannon: Crafting Fear**. It's difficult to think of any other disc release topping this one.

TOBE HOOPER'S DEATH TRAP

**DEATH TRAP**

Tobe Hooper followed up **The Texas Chainsaw Massacre** with this compellingly sick exercise based on a true-life story of a redneck motel owner (actually named Joe Ball) who used to feed his patrons to his pet crocodile. Neville Brand is in fine, scenery-chewing form as the proprietor of a rundown hotel in the Louisiana bayou who uses a monster scythe to lop the heads off his guests before he feeds them to the monster croc out back. Robert (Freddy) Englund makes a potent early appearance as a would-be stud ("My

name is Chuck and I'm ready to f**k!") who meets a sticky end. Marilyn Burns (who survived **Texas Chainsaw**) is the lady in distress here, and guess what? - she gets tied up and tormented! The film is much more of a black comedy than its predecessor, and the sets are straight out of an old EC comic. But it definitely lacks the pounding ferocity of **Texas Chainsaw**, which is a shame. Though screened at the London Film Festival, it was deemed a nasty by a panel of experts at Willesden Magistrates Court after Mary Whitehouse took out a private prosecution against it! Oh dear...



DVD Availability

Tobe Hooper's controversial movie was screened at the 1976 London Film Festival, but that was the only time it saw the light of a projector bulb in the UK. After it was placed on the DPP list it languished there for quite a while before being resubmitted to the BBFC and passed with 25 seconds of cuts. Then in the year 2000 the folks at VIPCO gave it another try and got it through completely uncut. VIPCO's region 2 disc is one of their better efforts, presenting the film in a fairly colourful full screen transfer. If you prefer to have the movie in its original 1.85:1 widescreen ratio then you need to check out Elite's region free NTSC

release, which gives the film its American title of **Eaten Alive**. Both the UK and US releases have trailers and small poster galleries, but no other extras worth mentioning. Somebody should do a remastering job on this and drag Tobe in to do a commentary.

DEEP RIVER SAVAGES

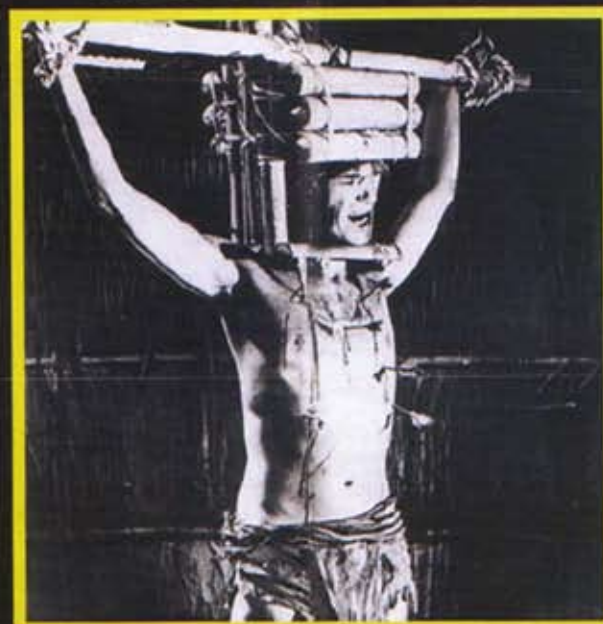
An earlier cannibal movie from the director of the brutal **Cannibal Ferox**, this exploitative effort once again does few favours for the south-east Asian tourist board. Rassimov is a photographer who kills a guy in a bar

brawl in South America and then escapes into the jungle, where he falls into the hands of the cheerful flesh-chompers of the title. In a racist twist to the tale, the cannibals adopt this white fellow as their divine leader. But before joining the club he has to partake of the same munchies as them. Former TV presenter Me Me Lay is sexy as the chief's daughter who becomes Rassimov's bride. The film may have sympathetic characters, but that doesn't stand in the way of the gore. We get to see the top of a monkey's head whacked off with a sword, and far too much animal butchery. In a scene borrowed from **A Man Called Horse**, poor old Ivan is strung up and used as a human dart board for native blowpipes. You can't beat a bit of bully!

DVD

Availability This movie was originally rejected for a UK cinema release in 1975. It was re-submitted

He dared the forbidden river!
**WHERE ADVENTURE ENDS
...AND HELL BEGINS!**

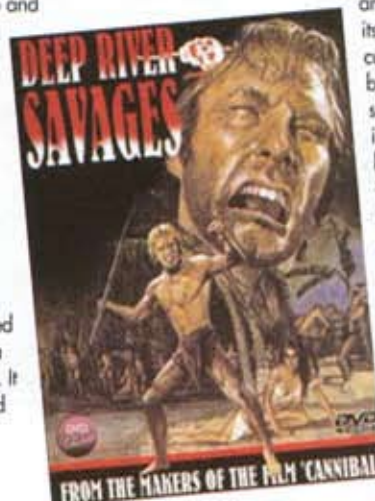


JOSEPH BRENNER ASSOCIATES, INC. PRESENTS

MAN FROM DEEP RIVER

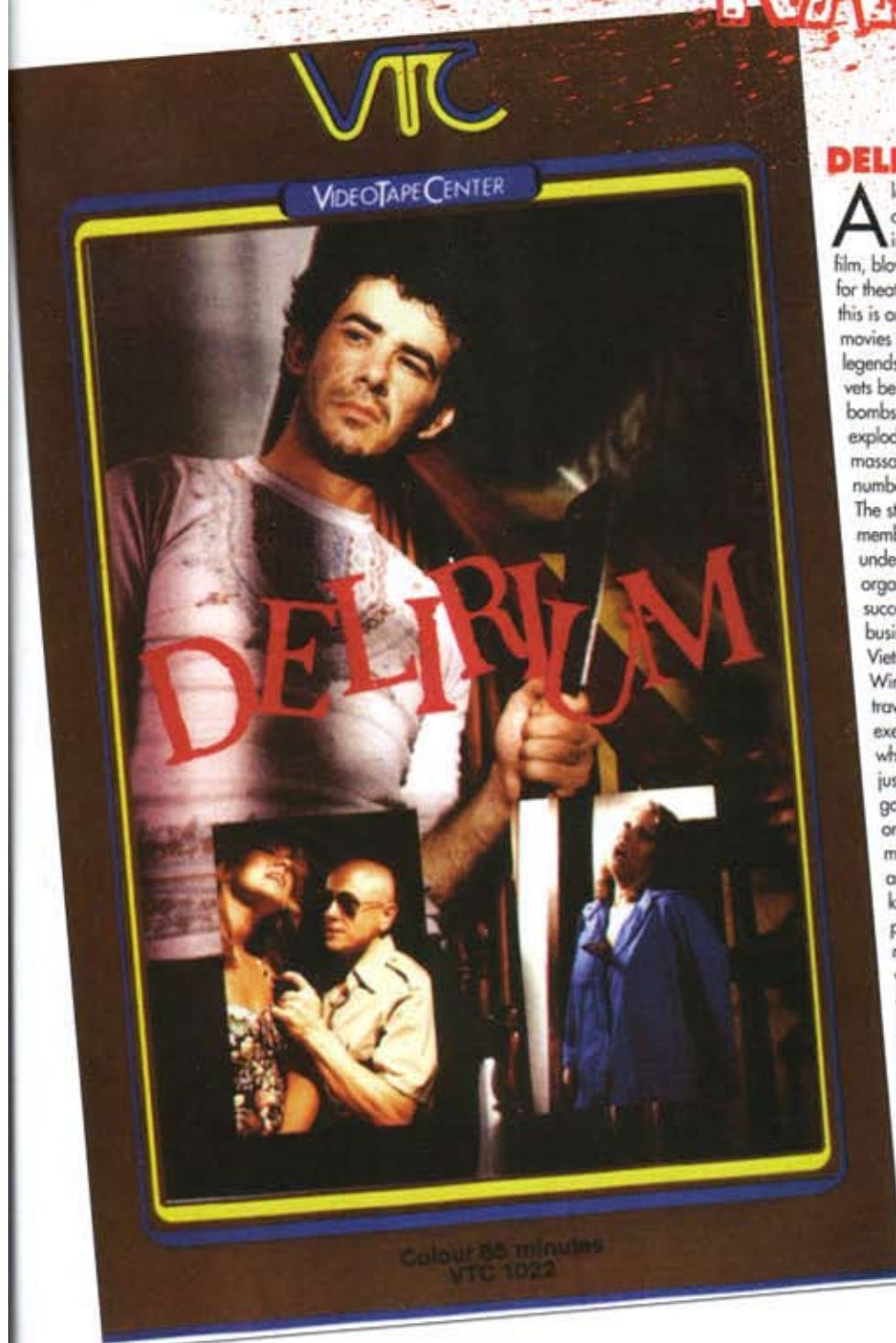
Next month: The horror continues with **Delirium**, **Devil Hunter** and **Don't Go In The House!**

for DVD release in the UK in 2003 by Screen Entertainment. Their disc is quite a nice-looking one, with trailer, photo gallery, an Umberto Lenzi filmography, extracts from the Cannibal movie book 'Eaten Alive' including production notes and 2 contemporary reviews. It's in 2.35:1 anamorphic. Trouble is, this version also has 3m 45s of cuts, removing the sight of some real animal cruelty (in this case setting a mongoose on a snake; locking a monkey into a vice and slicing off the top of its head; a cock fight; cutting a snake and bleeding it alive; and stabbing a crocodile in its neck with a small knife). There's a German release in 2.35:1 non-anamorphic PAL that is completely uncut, and the picture quality is very good, so we'd have to say this would seem to be the preferred version.



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return of the VIDEO NASTIES!



DELIRIUM

A low-budget shot-on-16mm independent film, blown up to 35mm for theatrical release, this is one of those movies that fosters the legends about Vietnam vets being killer time bombs waiting to explode and massacre large numbers of people. The story concerns members of a large underground organisation led by successful businessman (and Vietnam vet) Barron Winchester, who travel around executing criminals who have evaded justice. Things are going fine until one of their members snaps and goes on a killing spree, polishing off mainly pretty women. In the end the roommate of one of the victims helps two detectives trap the psycho killer. Poorly shot and edited, the movie uses flashbacks to explain why

the killers were motivated to do what they did - it's something to do with an unpleasant experience with a Vietnamese hooker... The gore scenes are very tame, with unconvincing blood squibs. The film's unpleasantly misogynist point of view doesn't help. Everybody gets shot in the really confusing ending.

DVD Availability

There is a US DVD of *Delirium*, but don't get confused because this Image release is actually a weird sex drama by Renato Polselli, starring former muscleman Mickey Hargitay. It's nothing to do with this down and dirty Viet vet thriller that remains one of the more obscure titles on the list. It's such a grimy little low budget movie and so grim and depressing in tone that it's hardly surprising nobody seems in the slightest bit interested in releasing it, though you can find it on tape in the US under the title of *Psycho Puppet*. The movie was never granted a certificate for UK cinema release, but it did get reissued on VHS here briefly with 16 seconds of violence trimmed. It seems likely that if it was reissued today it would get through uncut, but frankly nobody seems to care.

DEVIL HUNTER

More Third World horrors, this time brought to us by our old favourite Jess Franco, hiding under yet another of his many pseudonyms. Starlet Ursula Fellner is on a modelling job in South America when she is abducted by a gang who carry her off into the jungle to model a fetching grass skirt. Held captive in a jungle village by a big black guy with eyes like ping pong balls (who calls himself The Devil) our terrified heroine must undergo various native rituals and take her clothes off frequently while her kidnappers make ransom demands. Heroic Al Cliver is the

Video Nasties

THE DEVIL HUNTER

The lovely Luisa, on a modelling job in South America, is kidnapped by a gang who carry her off into the jungle home where they demand a huge ransom. Two men set off in a helicopter to rescue her, little knowing what horrors Luisa is enduring in the mountains in the savage clutches of a primitive and bloodthirsty world. Luisa's rescuers not only have to face the cruel violence of her captors – but also the horrifying lust for blood of a primitive and cruel god.

Al Cliver, Gisela Hahn, Robert Foster
Running Time: 94 minutes



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THE DEVIL HUNTER

THE DEVIL HUNTER



Al Cliver, Gisela Hahn, Robert Foster

pal vhs

colour videocassette pal vhs

Indiana Jones clone dispatched to rescue Ursula, and he seems to take forever to do it. At one point he scales a mountain in much the same silly manner as Batman used to climb tall buildings in the 60s TV show - the camera is laid on its side and Cliver is filmed crawling across the floor! Thoroughly inept in every department, why this remains banned in the UK to this day is pretty much a mystery - but it's also a mercy.

DVD Availability

This movie remains banned in the UK, and for some strange reason nobody seems to have picked it up to re-present it to the BBFC. It's even odder that none of the companies in Germany or France who have been releasing Jess Franco flicks have added this to their list. This was censored for sexual imagery as well as cannibal violence, so maybe that explains it. If you want to see this nowadays the only option is to go the bootleg DVD-R route. There are a couple of discs available from French and Dutch sources that look like they were taken from the old VHS tapes! Presented full frame with no extras at all, the cheap laser copy covers make it obvious that you're getting a bog standard effort. Strictly for Franco completists - and if you're out there, accept my condolences!

DON'T GO IN THE HOUSE

Nerdy Dan Grimaldi has a poor start in life being tortured by his mad mum, who liked to hold his arms above naked flames. Now he's all grown up, and has murdered mom and roasted her, keeping her crispy corpse around for company. In his spare time he kidnaps women (after cruising discos in his Travolta gear) and locks them in the fireproof basement of his house, where he burns them to death. This is a gleefully repulsive movie in which all the female characters are bimbos or bitches (or both) and the hero is a macho jerk. Strangely enough, it was co-written by a woman! There are some good, almost too realistic make-up effects (by Tom Brumberger), but this film is just too sleazy and shoddily assembled to appeal as engrossing entertainment. The climax bears a suspicious similarity to the ending of *Maniac*. It was originally to have been called *The Burning*, but another movie beat them to it. Unlike the killer's victims, this one is not well done.

DVD Availability

Don't Go In The House was submitted to the BBFC in 2001 and

passed with cuts of 3 minutes and 7 seconds. Our old friends at VIFCO were behind this one, and served up a disc and tape that had plainly been sourced from an old VHS tape master. The most sensible advice, therefore, was **Don't Go In The Video Shop** to buy this. The only uncut DVD available is a cheap region free version that was released in 1999 by a company called Digital Versatile Disc. This presents the film in full frame with a very poor quality transfer that again looks like it may have been sourced from a VHS master of a very scratchy print with tons of grain. The flame sequences often white out the image. There are no extras on the disc and the audio is lousy. I can't imagine that this film ever looked great, but a decent home video version of it remains elusive.

Next month: More important warnings: *Don't Go In The Woods* and *Don't Go Near The Park!*



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DON'T GO IN THE WOODS ALONE

Don't Waste Your Money
It might be a more appropriate title. It's unbelievable that this stupid film managed to make the video nasty list - it's so badly made and has such crappy special effects that even the least discriminating of horror fans will have a tough time sitting through it. A bunch of unlucky teenage campers ignore the title warning and head off into the woods of Utah for a dreary confrontation with a limb-ripping "Wild Man." There's no script to

speaking of, just endless shots of people wandering through the woods accompanied by what must be one of the worst musical scores ever written. The photography is abysmal, and most of the time you can't even see what's going on. Squint hard and you might catch two men having plastic arms lopped off, a chap getting his face crushed in a bear trap, and several girls being butchered in their sleeping bags. In the end the murderer is hunted down by the sheriff, a fat cat who looks like he has more lunches than hunches. But it's up to two

vengeful victims to give the maniac the treatment he deserves. If you can sit through this one then you can probably sit through anything.

DVD Availability

Still banned in the UK for reasons that remain unfathomable to sensible folk, this one's only going to come into your possession if you spot an old tape copy at a car boot, film fair or Cash Converters. Or alternately you could order a bootleg DVD-R on the net - but be warned these are well nigh





unwatchable full screen transfers that make the original VHS versions look like remastered Special Editions! It's worth making the effort though, if only to experience the immortal words of one of the best end title songs ever committed to celluloid:

"Don't go into the woods tonight, you probably will be thrilled.

Don't go into the woods tonight, you probably will be killed.

There's a friendly beast that lurks about,

And likes to feast, you won't get out, Without being killed and chopped up in little pieces."

DON'T GO NEAR THE PARK

A really obscure and generally unmemorable vampire flick which kicks off with the bizarre statement that: "This film is fiction, though it is based on actual occurrences which happened over the centuries." Fair enough. After a prologue in which a curse of eternal damnation is placed on some kids, we move forward 12,000 years or so to the present day, where the kids are still around. It seems they've been surviving on a diet of ripped-open stomachs, but the centuries haven't sharpened up their acting skills. The disembowelling scenes are obviously what attracted the DPP's attention, since the rest of the movie is so damn pathetic, with some of the most abysmal effects ever committed to celluloid. Linnea Quigley turns up in one of her first film performances and promptly gets her tugs off as usual. She plays a supernatural brat named Bondy, who is given a glowing amulet that makes rapists explode. You probably need

to be on some kind of medication to enjoy this. The director went on to make the very trashy Linda Blair vehicle, **Night Force**.

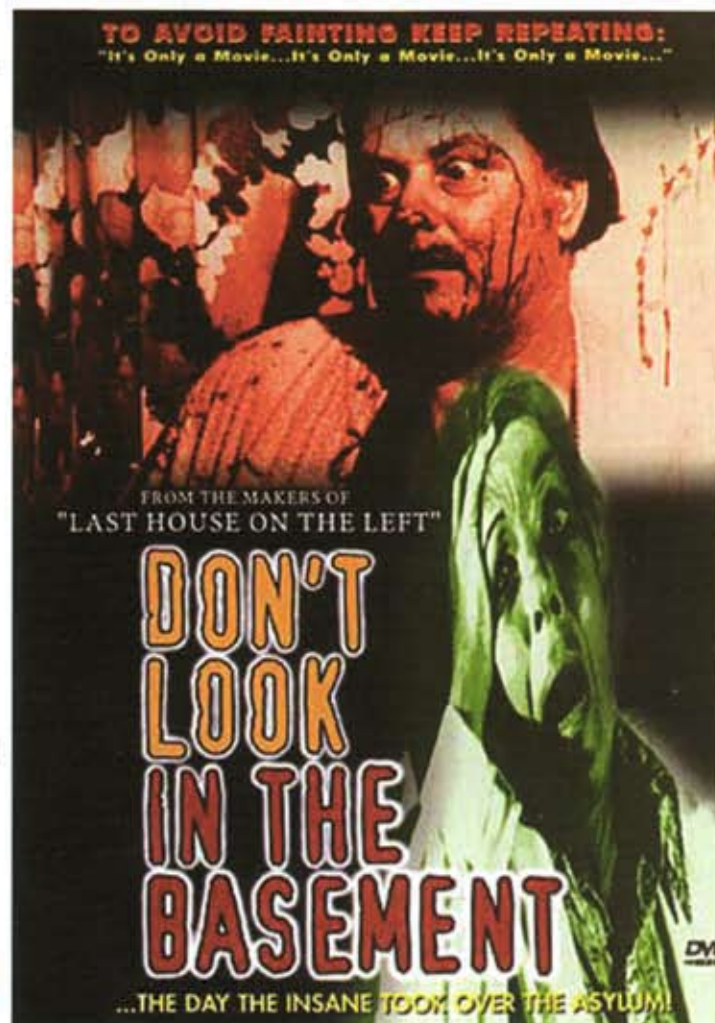
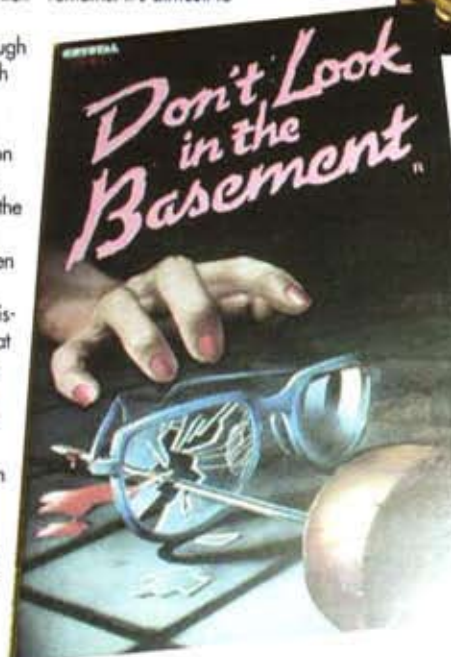
DVD Availability

This was one of the first films to be officially 'pardoned' and released from the list. It went to live a quiet life in the suburbs as a decent law-abiding citizen and was never heard of again. That's about true, actually, since this ultra-cheap effort quickly disappeared off the radar and rarely resurfaces, even at car boot sales. The

original VHS tapes were of such dreadful quality that nobody even bothered to bootleg this as a DVD-R. However, I did hear as we were going to press on this book that Salvation UK were planning a restored special edition DVD for 2004. I'll believe it when I see it, but it hardly seems something to get excited about.

DON'T LOOK IN THE BASEMENT

Care In The Community reaches its logical conclusion and the inmates take over the asylum in this celebrated sleaze horror yarn from Texas filmmaker Brownrigg. Rosie Holotik is the psycho patient who assumes control of a loony bin when the director of the place is butchered. People then begin to meet violent and gory deaths until only one person remains. It's difficult to



old slogan: "Just keep telling yourself it's only a movie!"

DVD Availability

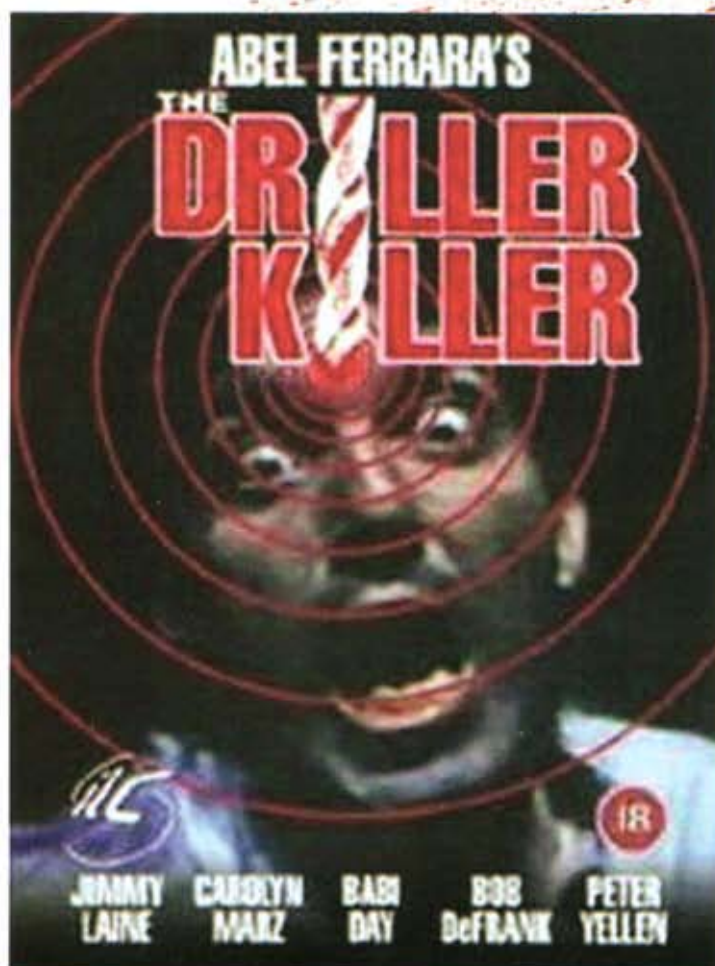
Passed with cuts for an X-certificate UK cinema release, this movie was eventually removed from the DPP Nasties list, but it has never been put out on video or DVD in an uncut form. I can't imagine it

doing great business if it was. There is, however, an uncut region free US disc on the VCI label. The quality of the fullscreen transfer is not great. It has a lot of grain and the print used is pretty scratchy in places, but it's a step above a DVD-R and we get a decent selection of trailers and text-based extras. As of time of writing it has been reported that there is a special edition of the movie in the works which has been sanctioned by the director, who will also supply a commentary, but this may just be internet gossip.

Next month: DIY for psychopaths – prepare to be bored by The Driller Killer!

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return of the VIDEO NASTIES!



DRILLER KILLER

This odd punk horror fable from maverick (and now mainstream) director Ferrara once seemed unlikely ever to be seen in the UK because it was successfully prosecuted as a video nasty back in the bad old days before the Video Recordings Act. How times change! The director himself stars (using the nom-de-plume of Jimmy Laine) as a druggy loony who sets about clearing the winos from the streets of New York by select use of a portable power drill. The film has no money for gory special effects but is shot in a

documentary style that is convincing. The problem is that it doesn't make it as entertainment, having no interesting characters to empathise with and no real beginning or end - it just sort of fades out in an unsatisfactory fashion. Considering its reputation, this is surprisingly unexploitative. Writer Nicholas St John is a regular collaborator with Ferrara, and the two went on to make the far superior **MS 45**. Along with **I Spit On Your Grave**, this notorious movie is most often cited as having kicked off the video nasties furore in the UK. In fact it was VIFCO's lurid



THE EVIL DEAD

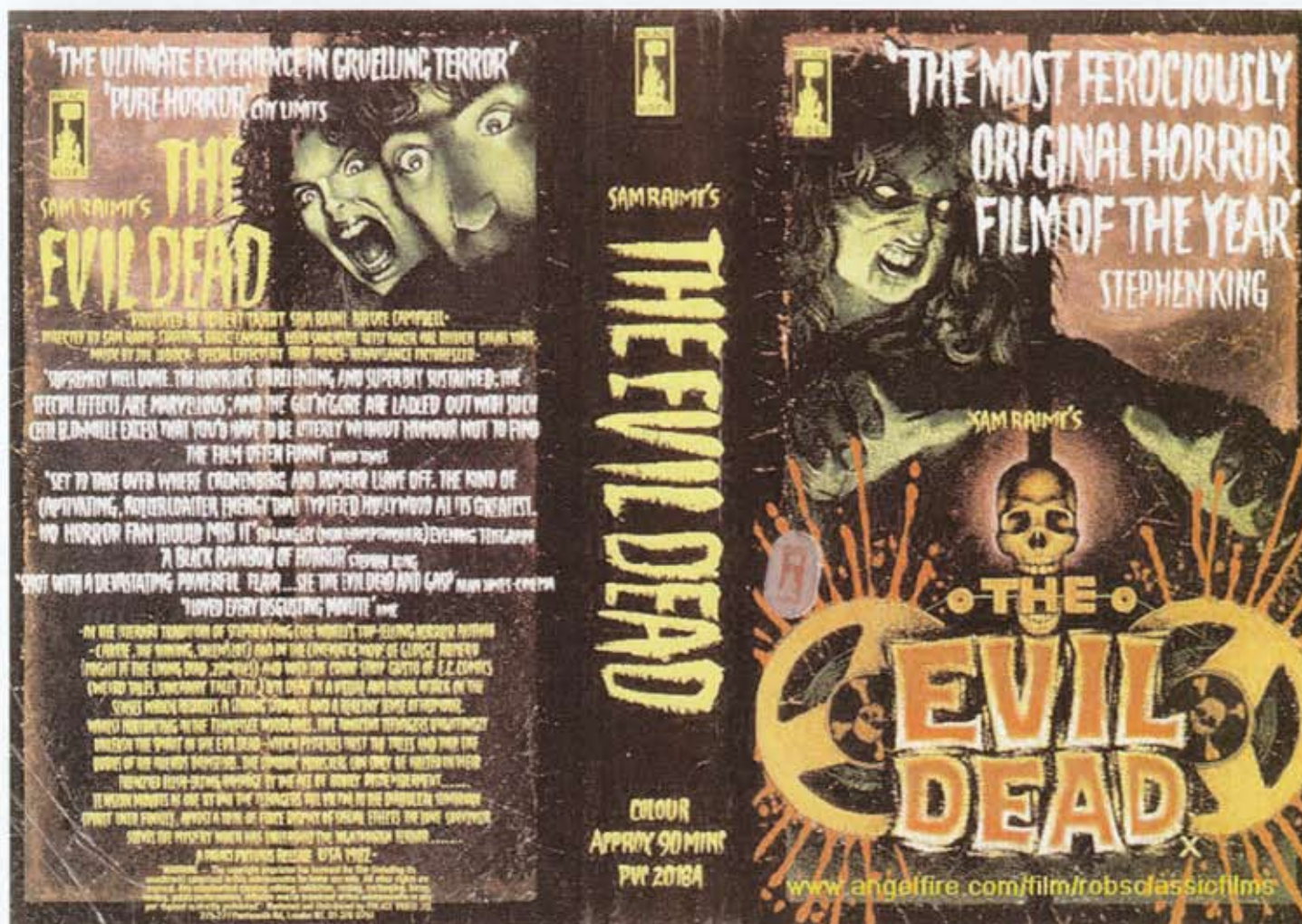
Sam Raimi's seminal horror classic came along at the birth of the video explosion, before the market was glutted with cheap looking shot-on-video rubbish. In fact watching it again today reveals how superior it is to its hundreds of shoddy imitators, and Sam Raimi's direction is so stylish and inventive that it is little wonder he has managed to move on to a successful Hollywood career. 22-year-old Raimi shot the

picture for about \$250,000, money that he raised by going door-to-door with his investment package - most of the investors were doctors, dentists and estate agents! You all know the plot: five teenagers take shelter in an abandoned cabin deep in the woods. Inside they find an audio tape and an arcane volume, which turns out to be the Sumerian **Book Of The Dead**. The tape translates some of the incantations in the book and giant demons are unleashed in the woods. One by one the teenagers are taken over by the demons, which have to be chopped into little pieces before they can be completely destroyed! Well shot on 16mm, with what looks like impressive steadicam photography (but was in fact achieved by strapping a camera to a motorbike and racing through the woods with it), this is straight-ahead horror that sets out purely and simply to frighten the living daylights out of a teen audience. The effects are generally pretty poor, but they are yukky and plentiful and work brilliantly in context. The tree rape is the most unpleasant scene, and it's a bit at odds with the breezy tone of the rest of the movie. In retrospect Sam says he wishes he had taken it out. Also pretty ghostly is the card-

DVD Availability

Driller Killer was banned in the UK until 1999, then passed with 54 seconds of cuts. The main cuts were to the head drilling scene but two earlier drill killings also suffered. 46 seconds of footage was added to smooth over some of the gaps. It was eventually passed uncut in 2002. Visual's Region 2 disc (cut) has an introductory commentary by film academic of the University of Nottingham, Xavier Mendik, plus trailers for **Atolladero**, **The Holy Mountain**, **Possession**, and **The Washing Machine**. There's also a filmography for Abel Ferrara. The film is presented in 4:3 non-anamorphic PAL. The version to buy is the later IFC Prime R2 disc which is uncut and features an audio commentary with director Ferrara, a theatrical trailer, a filmography for Ferrara and is in 1.85:1 non anamorphic PAL. Best-looking is a R2 French edition which has an English track and is anamorphic.

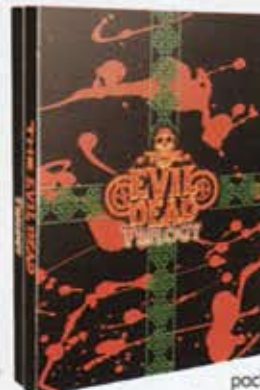
picture for about \$250,000, money that he raised by going door-to-door with his investment package - most of the investors were doctors, dentists and estate agents! You all know the plot: five teenagers take shelter in an abandoned cabin deep in the woods. Inside they find an audio tape and an arcane volume, which turns out to be the Sumerian **Book Of The Dead**. The tape translates some of the incantations in the book and giant demons are unleashed in the woods. One by one the teenagers are taken over by the demons, which have to be chopped into little pieces before they can be completely destroyed! Well shot on 16mm, with what looks like impressive steadicam photography (but was in fact achieved by strapping a camera to a motorbike and racing through the woods with it), this is straight-ahead horror that sets out purely and simply to frighten the living daylights out of a teen audience. The effects are generally pretty poor, but they are yukky and plentiful and work brilliantly in context. The tree rape is the most unpleasant scene, and it's a bit at odds with the breezy tone of the rest of the movie. In retrospect Sam says he wishes he had taken it out. Also pretty ghostly is the card-



reading sequence where a demon plunges a pencil into Ellen Sandweiss' ankle and twists it about a bit! The film is only for genuine horror devotees who want a darn good scare leavened with a sizeable dose of tongue-in-cheek black humour. A cause celebre in the "Nasties" debate of the early 80s, **The Evil Dead** led to two sequels, neither of which was a patch on the original.

DVD Availability

Nowadays this is the easiest of all the Nasties to find on DVD, and your only problem is deciding which version you would rather have in your collection. It seems strange to think that when the film was originally resubmitted to the BBFC in 1990 they demanded slight cuts. These were later rescinded and all new versions are totally uncut. The movie came out on laserdisc and then DVD from Elite a few years ago. Then Anchor Bay USA gave us a spiffy **Special Edition** featuring an audio commentary with director/writer Sam Raimi and producer Robert Tapert,



and a second audio commentary with actor Bruce Campbell. The package also included a theatrical trailer, photo gallery, outtakes, deleted scenes, TV spots etc. This disc presents the film in an anamorphic 1.85 aspect ratio authorised by director Sam Raimi, but is a re-framed version based on the 4:3 original. Anchor Bay UK's limited **Book Of The Dead**

packaging edition was fun, but the edition of choice has to be the 2003 Anchor Bay UK box set of all three **Evil Dead** movies. You get the entire trilogy, plus a fourth disc containing loads of great extras, including a fascinating new documentary, and you get the first **Evil Dead** in its original 1.33:1 full screen unimatted version (with Dolby Digital 5.1 and DTS-ES 6.1 audio choices). The only sad thing about all of these releases is that none of them contain Raimi's **Within The Woods** short - a film that remains tantalisingly unavailable for obscure legal reasons.

Next month: Satanic goings-on in Evilspeak, and Fiona Richmond's togs coming off in Exposé!

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return of the VIDEO NASTIES!

Evilspeak



solitary and haunted vault he discovers a secret hoard of old demonic books that reveal the mysteries of the Satanic Arts. But only the college computer can unleash the terrifying wrath of Satan's dark heart.

Through the computer Stanley makes contact with the powers of darkness and together this deadly combination deliver an appalling judgement on every one of his tormentors.



Stanley Cooper Smith is the bumbling misfit of the West Andover Military Academy, a buffoon on the soccer field and the parade ground, and the victim of the cruellest practical jokes. Deep beneath the college chapel, sealed-off for centuries, he finds the hidden sanctuary of a satanic priest.

Here Stanley escapes his tormenting classmates. In this

The last word in terror

HAYWOOD NELSON/TOP STARK (CHARLES TYNER, Director of Photography, BY GROOMING OF Associate Producer GERALD FRODMAN and H. HAL HARRIS/Executive Producer SYLVIO TARET Screenplay by JOSEPH GARCHALLO and ERIC WESTON Based on a Story by ROSEMARY ARTHUR ALLO Produced by SYLVIO TARET and ERIC WESTON Directed by ERIC WESTON A LEISURE INVESTMENT COMPANY Release / Distributed by THE MURKIN COMPANY, INC.

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VIDEO SPACE

R RESTRICTED
Under 17 requires accompaniment
Parental discretion advised

Data incomplete... Human blood required
THIS SPARKS THE COMPUTER



Evilspeak

Executive Producer
SYLVIO TARET
Freedom Road

Musical Score
ROGER KELLAWAY

Special Effects
BOB BAILLY
Star Trek

EVILSPEAK

Clint Howard (brother of superstar director Ron and star of the TV series **Gentle Ben**) features here as an over-age-looking computer-obsessed nerd who is always being picked upon by his rotten classmates at a stuffy military academy. Then he discovers a book of black magic and wires it through his hard disk to summon up a programme (courtesy of Establar,

The Demon) that will enable him to get his own back - in spades! Thereafter he can command an army of wild pigs, who scoff his enemies whole in the gross final scenes. This came out around the same time as the hit computer holocaust thriller **War Games**, but plays like a madcap version of **An Officer And A Gentleman**, with stylish, energetic direction and some good special effects. The highlight is a game of football

using a severed bonce as a soccer ball. There's also a stonking exploding head scene at the end. This one made the nasties list in the UK, and there are a few scenes in it that are not for the faint-hearted. The most repulsive comes when the cadets slaughter Howard's pet puppy - a scene that makes the film dubious viewing for dog-lovers. Otherwise this fast-moving tale of a worm that turns will keep you gripped throughout.

DVD Availability

This title was reclassified in May 1999, but in more or less the same cut version, which is also available in the US on the Fox label. The cuts made are to the scene where the pigs attack a secretary, the scene where the Captain's head explodes when hit by sword, and part of the infamous gut-wrenching scene at the end of the movie. The UK version received even more cuts including cuts to the black



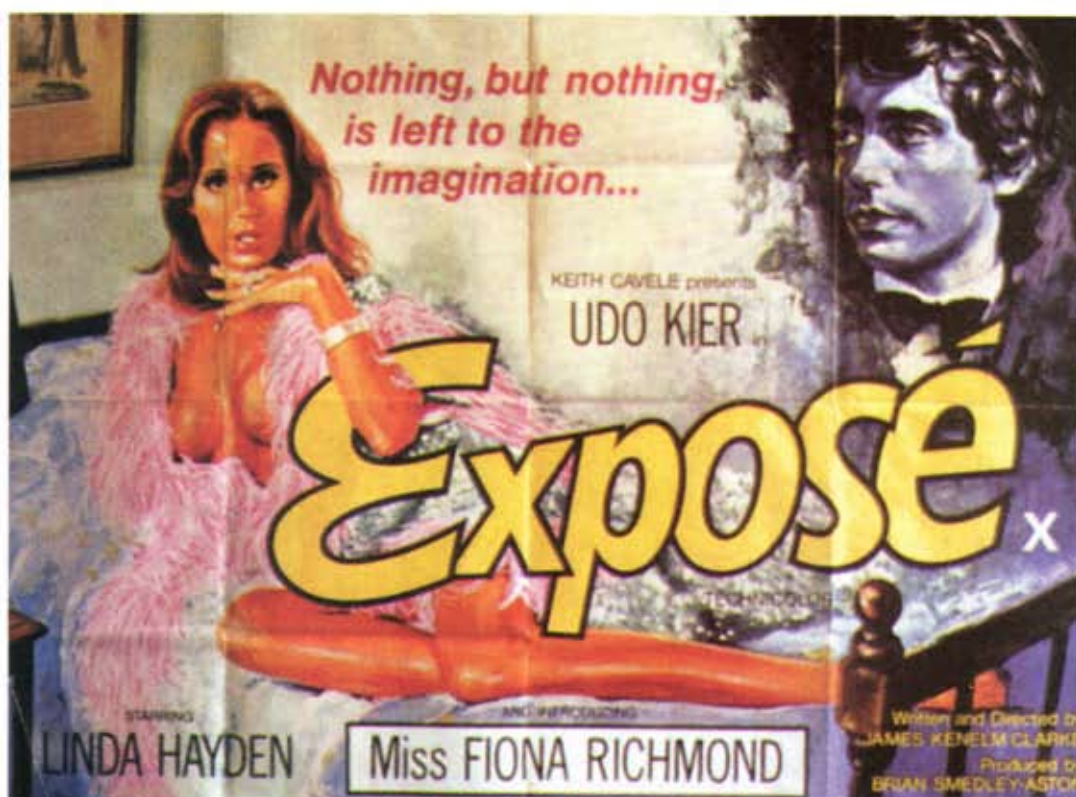
magic scene. Digital Entertainment put out a cheapie disc of this in the UK but it was the heavily trimmed UK version, and from the poor look of the full screen image it appears they sourced the tape master – so much for Digital Entertainment, eh? **Evilspeak** isn't even available on a bootleg DVD-R, and the one uncut version is the pre-VRA tape that made the Video Nasties list. However, we understand that Anchor Bay UK have it in their catalogue and will definitely be releasing this on DVD later this year.

EXPOSE

A notorious British-made shocker that has psychotic secretary Linda Hayden putting the frighteners on nervous novelist Udo Kier. The setting is a small English village, where Udo has retreated to work on his latest book. Hayden is hired to help him, but she has a hidden agenda of violent revenge. She gets raped by two thugs and turns the tables on them in the film's nastiest scene. Later on she slaughters Udo's girlfriend (played by 70s sex superstar Fiona Richmond) in a bloodthirsty shower scene homage to **Psycho**. Some of the continuity is a bit strange: after a violent thunderstorm, suddenly everything is sunny and dry. Rumours abound that a much longer 117 minute print of this film exists but this seems to be untrue. According to the director himself, the film was cut only slightly for its original release. This version made the nasties list because of the graphic sequence where Linda Hayden is raped, and seems to be enjoying her ordeal! All in all a compelling mixture of sex and violence, with the former overwhelming the latter. **Straw Dogs** was an obvious inspiration here, and in its own small way this is almost as good as Peckinpah's classic.

DVD Availability

It's notable that this was the only UK video that achieved video nasty status. **Expose** was originally released to UK



cinemas with 51 seconds of cuts. The kind of thing that was removed includes a shot of Fiona Richmond's legs streaming with blood. The most contentious scene involves the rape of Linda Hayden by two country boys (one of whom is Karl Howman from **Brush Strokes** and the **Flash** adverts). The scene goes on for a long time and the guys are shown to be clearly enjoying it whilst the woman rubs her hand up and down the shotgun in a

very suggestive manner. Ooer, missus! The fact that she manages to shoot them both didn't appease the BBFC who cut almost the entire scene. Also a scene showing Fiona Richmond getting murdered in the shower was reduced to eliminate blood on the breasts, which was always a big no-no at the BBFC.

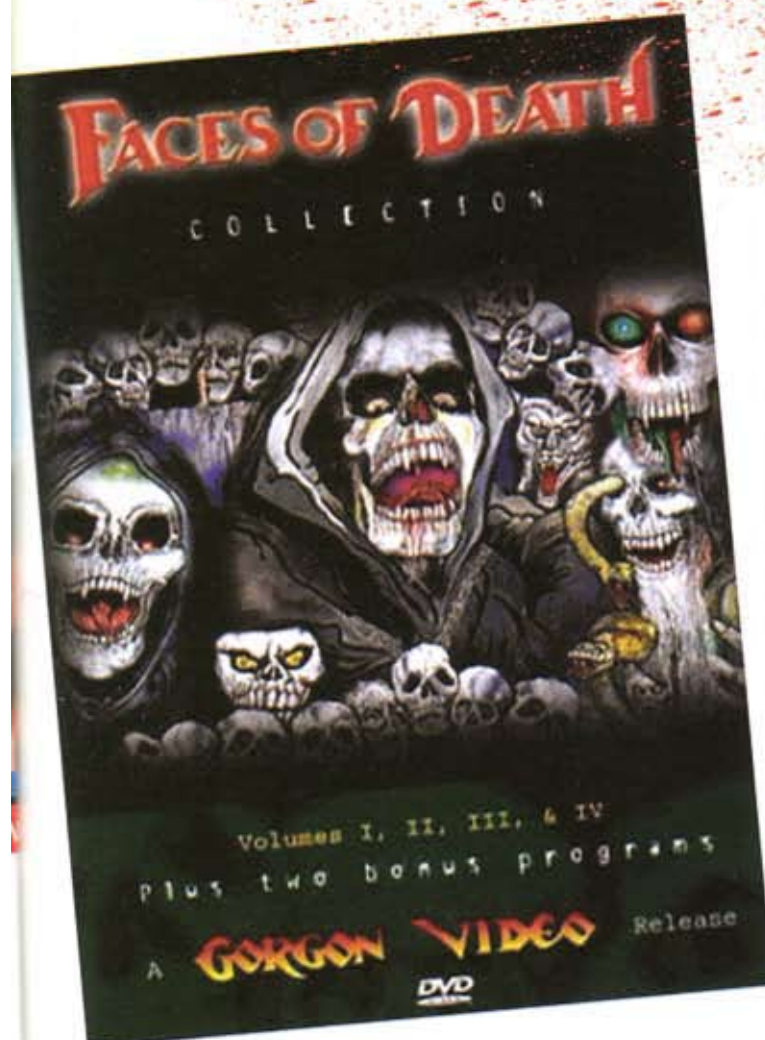
Odyssey put out a DVD of this in 2001, but unfortunately it was the same cut version that played cinemas, missing

the above-mentioned footage. If you want a totally uncut version you have to seek out the Australian DVD release, under the name of **The House on Straw Hill**. There's also a DVD-R version, but the picture quality is nowhere near as good as the Aussie disc.

Next Month: Prepare for shockumentary mondo madness as we delve into the world of real-life snuff with **Faces Of Death!**

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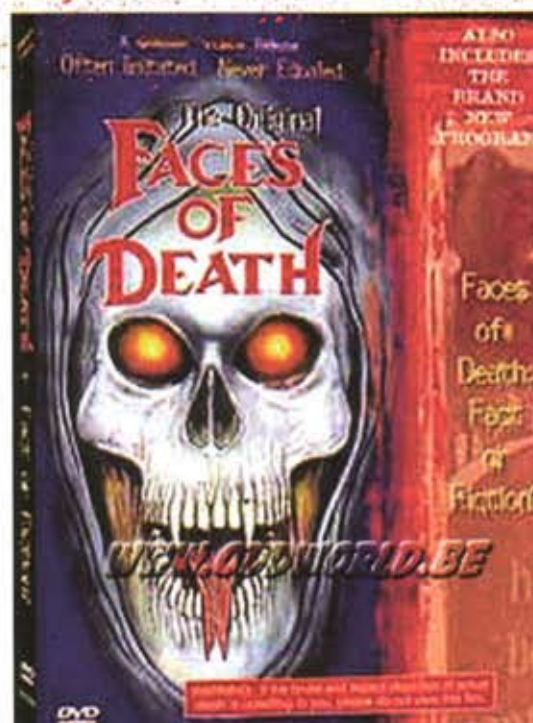
return of the VIDEO NASTIES!



FACES OF DEATH

This stomach-churning nasty was made by Californians for the Japanese market and it managed to outgross *Star Wars* in Japan for 13 weeks! This was the only one of the FOD movies that ever got a cinema release - the others were deservedly shunted direct to video. The first in the series is a catalogue of disasters presented by the aptly named Dr Francis Gross, a pathologist and "student of death" who talks like somebody who has been

subjected to too many hours of late night *Open University* programmes (in fact his voice is supplied by actor Michael Carr). The film veers between grisly real-life footage and staged re-enactments shot with a shaky hand-held camera to make them appear real. There are obviously fake scenes of an electric chair execution, a Middle East beheading and attacks by a grizzly bear and an alligator. But while you're chuckling over these, the film suddenly hits you with gruesome scenes of autopsies and suicides, and enough slaughterhouse



DVD

Availability
UK-based Hardcore label managed to secure an 18 for the notorious *Faces Of Death* in 2003. Needless to say, this didn't go through uncut. Compulsory cuts were required to the sight of fighting dogs and a monkey being cruelly beaten to death. The BBFC also issued the following statement to clarify exactly which part of the monkey-eating scene was cut.

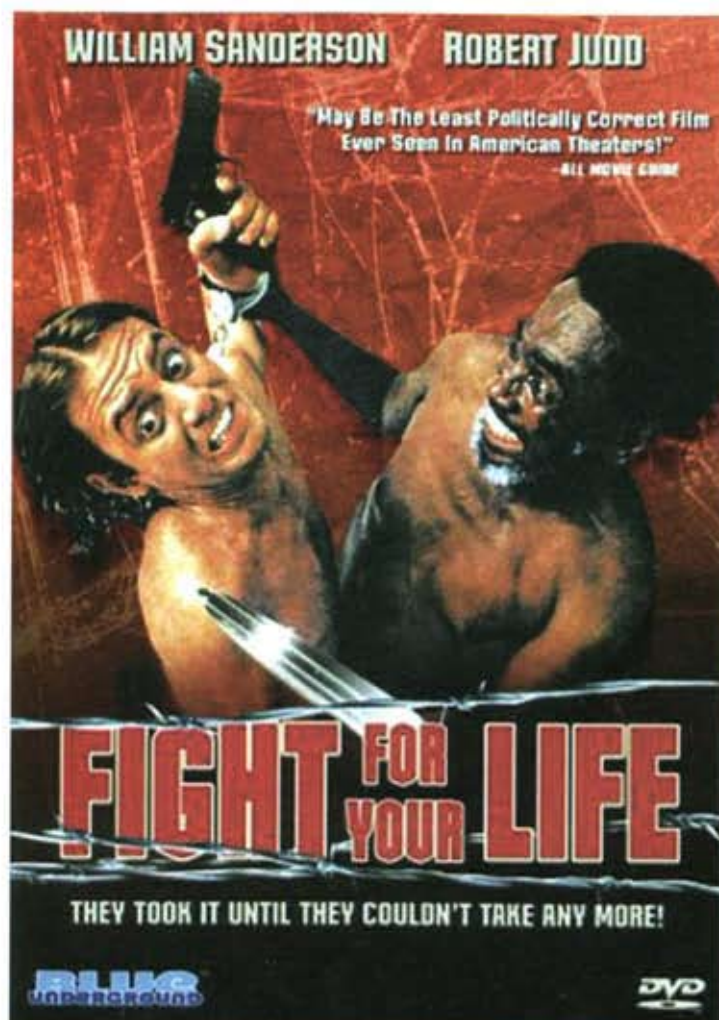
"The part of the scene that shows the brains being eaten (out of an

footage to turn you veggie on the spot. Dr Gross decides he will "never wear the skin of an animal again," but most of the cruelty here is aimed at animals, and scenes showing a live python eaten by a piranha and a pit bull battle to the death were obviously staged by the filmmakers (who use aliases). The worst scenes show chunks of charred flesh lying around after an air disaster, a body mangled under the wheels of a truck, and the mutilated victims of gang warfare. But just to cheer us all up at the end the film slides into a sappy song and close-ups of flowers, plus some photographs of ghosts, suggesting this title may be a big renter in the afterlife. If the *Faces Of Death* series had a point of view (like the excellent *Killing Of America* for example) then it might be worth watching. As it is, this hasn't and it's not.

obviously fake rubber head) has NOT been cut. What we HAVE cut is the material leading up to that in which a clearly real and clearly terrified monkey ('goaded to fear and fury' as the Animals Act puts it) is brought to the table in a special 'monkey eating' contraption and is then bashed on the head. It seems entirely possible that the head bashing was done with rubber hammers and the monkey came to no harm. However, the monkey was clearly - at least in the short term - restricted in a cage/head clamp and terrified and law prohibits this."

The way to go with this one is obviously the region free US disc from Gorgon Video, which interestingly enough also contains a 60-minute documentary explaining which parts of the movie were faked and which were real.

Video Nasties



FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE

This sleazy and unpleasant low-budget exploitation pic tells the story of three escaped convicts who brutalise a black minister and his family until the inevitable **I Spit On Your Grave**-type retribution. The convicts consist of a deranged white guy who forces the minister to call him "Massa," a barbarous oriental, and a knife-wielding Chicano. Most of the film has them terrorising the helpless family in scenes that are very nasty indeed. In fact most prints are missing a very nasty sequence where a young boy has his head bashed in with a rock. The grisly revenge bits at the end include a castration by bullet and impaling on broken glass - but at least the baddies deserve it! Some feeble attempts are made to explain the psychological motivation behind the leader of the gang's pathological hatred of blacks, but they don't fool anybody. This trashy exploitation epic is as mean and uncompromising as they come. Mind you, the ironic thing is that this was released at UK cinemas with an 'AA' certificate, meaning that at one time the BBFC thought it was suitable for 14-year-old kids...

DVD Availability

It's strange that this Canadian-made rape/revenge drama made it to the list in the first place, because there isn't much in the way of contentious material here. In fact this is a very talky film and not half as exploitive as it sounds from the plot description. It's possibly that the extreme race hatred angle has caused the film so many problems, and of course the subject remains a contentious one even today, especially with the PC brigade. The movie has just been released as a great region free disc in the US by the ever-reliable (quality-wise) Blue Underground.

This offers an exceptional 16:9 anamorphic transfer at 1.85:1, plus a lively commentary by writer Straw Weisman and director of photography Lloyd Freidus. The two work well together and come up with lots of juicy stuff on the making and selling of this notorious production. There are also trailers and TV spots, plus a poster and still gallery. If you like the movie, this is the best way to see it.

Next month: The nastiness continues as we sample Warhol's *Flesh For Frankenstein*!



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return of the VIDEO NASTIES!



FLESH FOR FRANKENSTEIN

Originally filmed in 3-D, this grisly Andy Warhol-produced gorefest stars Udo Kier as a degenerate Baron F. who has necrophiliac tendencies ("To know death, you must first fu*k life in the gall bladder!") and is married to his own sister! Yes, the man has issues... His aim is to create a master race, and to this end he uses a pair of giant shears to decapitate a handsome farmer (Srdjan Zelenovic) and stick it on a stud corpse,

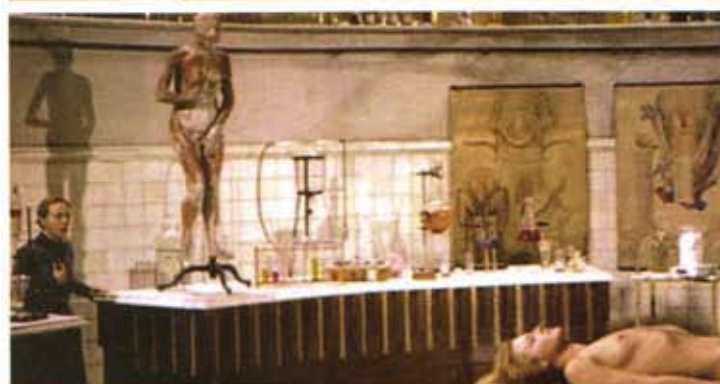
which then becomes the perfect mate for his beautiful female creation (Dalila Di Lazzaro). Sick and silly, the film is never less than entertaining and it has a real **Monty Python** feel about it, with lots of outrageous gore and awful performances, plus some memorably amusing lines, such as: "Why did you wake me? You know I have insomnia!" The best bit of 3-D has Kier contemplating his own liver, which is dangling on a pole one inch from the audience's collective noses! It's rare to see a gore pic with these kind of half-

decent production values. The movie was "supervised" by prolific Italian director Antonio Margheriti, who remains uncredited, and it was shot "back-to-back" with Warhol's **Blood For Dracula**, a movie that was actually gorier, but didn't make the nasties list for some strange reason...

DVD Availability

It seems strange that the BBFC managed to get the joke with Peter Jackson's **Bad Taste** and **Braindead**, but didn't realise that Andy Warhol's 1973 movie was a **Monty Python**-style spoof and not to be taken seriously. The UK censors trimmed seven minutes from the movie





when it was shown in London cinemas (in 3-D!) in 1975. These cuts were restored to the video, which resulted in it being banned, and it stayed that way until the 1990s when First Independent released a cut version in the UK. There have been a number of different DVD releases, but the definitive uncut version was released on disc as part of the prestigious Criterion collection in an impressive anamorphic 2.35:1 wide screen version - sadly not in 3-D (though this process gave me quite a headache at its original London screening). It featured a commentary by director Paul Morrissey, star Udo Kier and film historian Maurice Yacowar, plus production stills and publicity photos. A shame they didn't get Antonio Margheriti involved as well, because by all accounts he directed the lion's share of this picture. Remember that tip about the gall bladder...

FOREST OF FEAR

The year after they took over the Monroeville Mall, some **Dawn Of The Dead**-type zombies stalked the nearby Pennsylvania countryside in this low-budget gorefest shot on 16mm in George Romero's native Pittsburgh, zombie capital of the world! It would have remained anonymous but for the discovery of home video... John (Martin) Amplas stars in the role of an incredibly youthful-looking FBI agent out to roust a bunch of hippie drug smugglers. With this in mind, the government have dumped a load of experimental herbicide (called Dromax) on the hippies' marijuana plantation, turning everyone in the vicinity into zombie-like creatures with a taste for skinning up on human flesh. From there on in it's gore galore (mainly of the "Let's rip half a butcher's shop out of his shirt"

variety) as the terminally stoned zombies stumble through the woods chopping up innocent bystanders with machetes. The effects are actually very good considering the obvious poverty of the budget, but a boring subplot about double-dealing FBI agents detracts from the film's entertainment value. It's quite well acted, though that doesn't count for a heck of a lot in this kind of flick. As a sad footnote, we should mention at this point that the film's director, Chuck McCrann was killed in the 9/11 World Trade Centre attacks. He was in one of the buildings when it collapsed.

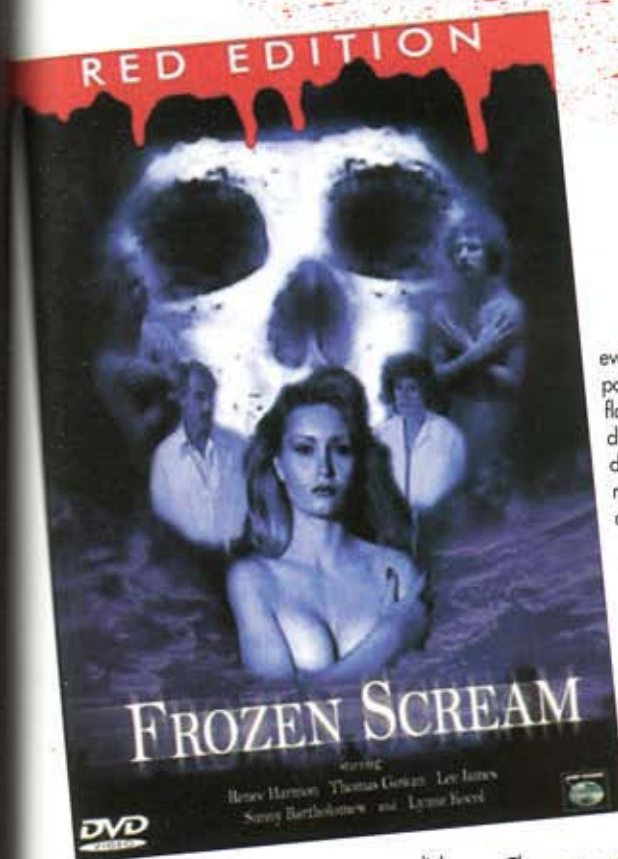
DVD Availability

This one actually remains banned for inexplicable reasons - has anyone at the BBFC taken the trouble to look at it in the last decade? It's pretty hard to find on tape or disc as well, though of course you can turn one up if you're absolutely desperate. There's a German edition under the title of **The Bloodeders** that is presented full frame in a fairly mediocre transfer that looks very much like it was gleaned from a VHS master, and not a very good one at that. The film is also available on video in the USA under the title of **Toxic Zombies**, but this version is reportedly missing some violent scenes and has also lost an epilogue that was on the banned version we saw all too briefly in this country. Disgruntled hippies and stoners may like to draw up some kind of petition. Or maybe not, eh?

Next month: The nastiness continues with **Frozen Scream** and **The Funhouse**!

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return of the VIDEO NASTIES!



FROZEN SCREAM

Duffel-coated killers are on the loose in this anonymous chiller, which found its way onto the nasties list for reasons which we mere mortals can only wonder about. The flashback-framed story concerns the search for immortality via cryogenic freezing, the only problem being that the human guinea pigs end up turning into cold-blooded zombies - the operation was a success, but the patient died! Various people are stabbed to death and there's a semi-grisly scene (not very well done) where an eyeball is punctured with a syringe. But for the most part the film is very confusing to watch and drags on forever through talky expositions of homespun philosophy, dire 70s-flavoured disco dancing scenes, and

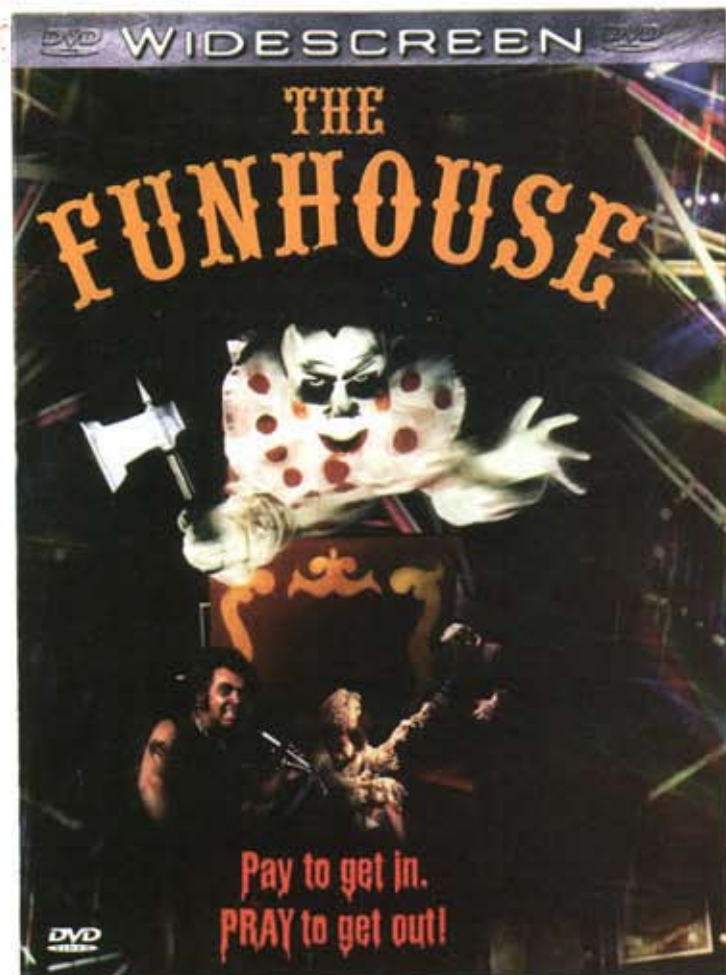
even some pointless arthouse-flavoured direction. This one deserves to remain anonymous.

DVD

Availability

This is perhaps the strangest addition to the list, because it's a very minor, actually pretty boring horror programmer that contains

little gore. The average **Friday the 13th** movie makes this look tame, and the only scene that could remotely be considered grisly involves an injection into an eyeball. After Fulci's **Zombie Flesh-Eaters** it's obvious that the BBFC clamped down on such scenes - **Dead And Buried** committed the same transgression. Anyway, **Frozen Scream** was later removed from the official list and disappeared into obscurity. Nobody seems to have much interest in the title these days, and if you're desperate to seek it out for the sake of nasties research then you need to check out foreign distributors. It was released on DVD as a European disc in full screen but uncut and with fairly good picture quality. It's not to be confused with another **Frozen Scream**, made in 1984 and starring Chris Mitchum.



THE FUNHOUSE

Universal entrusted their first major horror movie in many years to the hands of **Texas Chainsaw** man Tobe Hooper, and what did he deliver? A video nasty! Actually Hooper did a respectable job with less than inspired material. It's obvious there isn't going to be much that's original here from the opening scenes where the

comely Elizabeth Berridge is menaced **Psycho**-style in the shower - needless to say it turns out to be one of those stupid pranks that we all hate. Thereafter the story introduces us to a bunch of well-off teens (Berridge included) who decide it would be a huge laugh to spend the night in a seedy carnival funhouse. Some fun, huh? But their prank turns sour when they witness the killing of carnival fortune



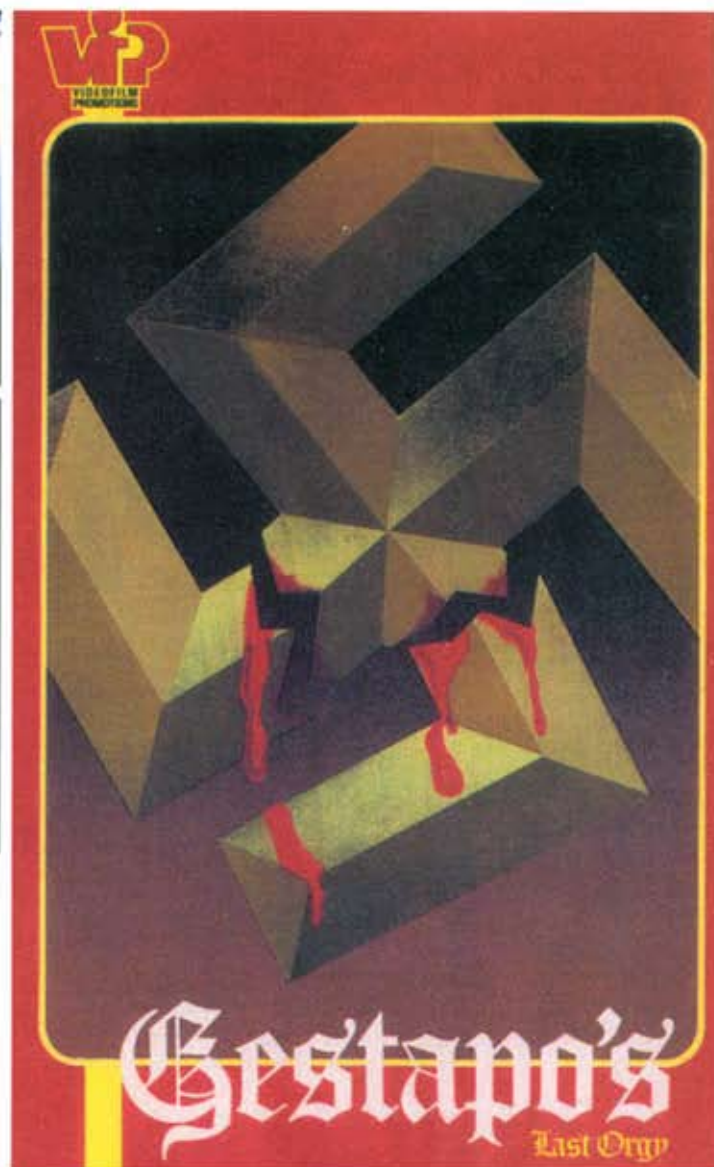
teller Sylvia Miles by the monstrous Wayne Doba, a cleft-headed albino who hides his deformity behind a Frankenstein mask. Of course the teens are then picked off one by one, leaving Berridge to confront the creature in the funhouse's clanking engine room. Hooper makes good use of some gorgeous widescreen colour camerawork plus a spooky Dolby soundtrack that throws scary sounds at you from all angles. But it doesn't pan out to much in the end. It is generally assumed that this title ended up on the banned list by mistake due to some confusion with Victor Janos's **Last House On Dead End Street**.

DVD Availability

It does seem very likely that the boys in blue confused Tobe Hooper's **Funhouse** with the no-budget US movie **Last House On Dead End Street**, also known as **The Funhouse**. That particular movie was released as a Special Edition disc in 2002 by Barrel Entertainment, and is a pretty grotesque affair containing slaughterhouse footage and a snuff movie scenario. It's believable that this would have been banned. As for Tobe Hooper's movie, well it's nothing more than an old-fashioned fright flick with a creature who looks like the old Universal Frankenstein monster. The film played UK cinemas uncut before it went out on video, and when resubmitted by UIP it was given a BBFC video certificate with no cuts. **The Funhouse** is available as an uncut region 1 DVD in a good quality 2.35:1 transfer. The disc contains a trailer but no other extras.

THE GESTAPO'S LAST ORGY

One of the better concentration camp movies inspired by the success of **The Night Porter**, **TGLO** is pitched somewhere between that arty Liliana Cavani picture and the likes of Sergio Garrone's more honestly exploitative **S.S. Experiment Camp**. Whether its more polished approach makes this saga of sado-masochistic love between a camp commandant and one of his Jewish prisoners any less reprehensible than Garrone's notorious effort is open to question. Anyway, it's a slick exploitation piece which begins five years after the end of the war. The sadistic ex-commandant of a Nazi love camp has just been cleared of war crimes thanks to a sympathetic character reference from Lisa, one of the camp's inmates. In flashbacks we learn that Lisa had not been truthful. In reality she was brutally tortured by the commandant, who was out to break her spirit and make her his love slave. When the nasty Nazi gets out she invites him back to the camp to "refuel old passions," but revenge is his thing on her mind and she gets it in a suitably nasty fashion. The flashback scenes are the meat of the movie and contain gory sequences of skulls being crushed by rifle butts and people being lowered screaming into vats of acid. Of course as promised by the title we get a long and explicit orgy scene. Trivia buffs note that Canevari made the first film adaptation of **Emmanuelle**, several years before Just Jaeckin's better-known version with Sylvia Kristel.



DVD Availability

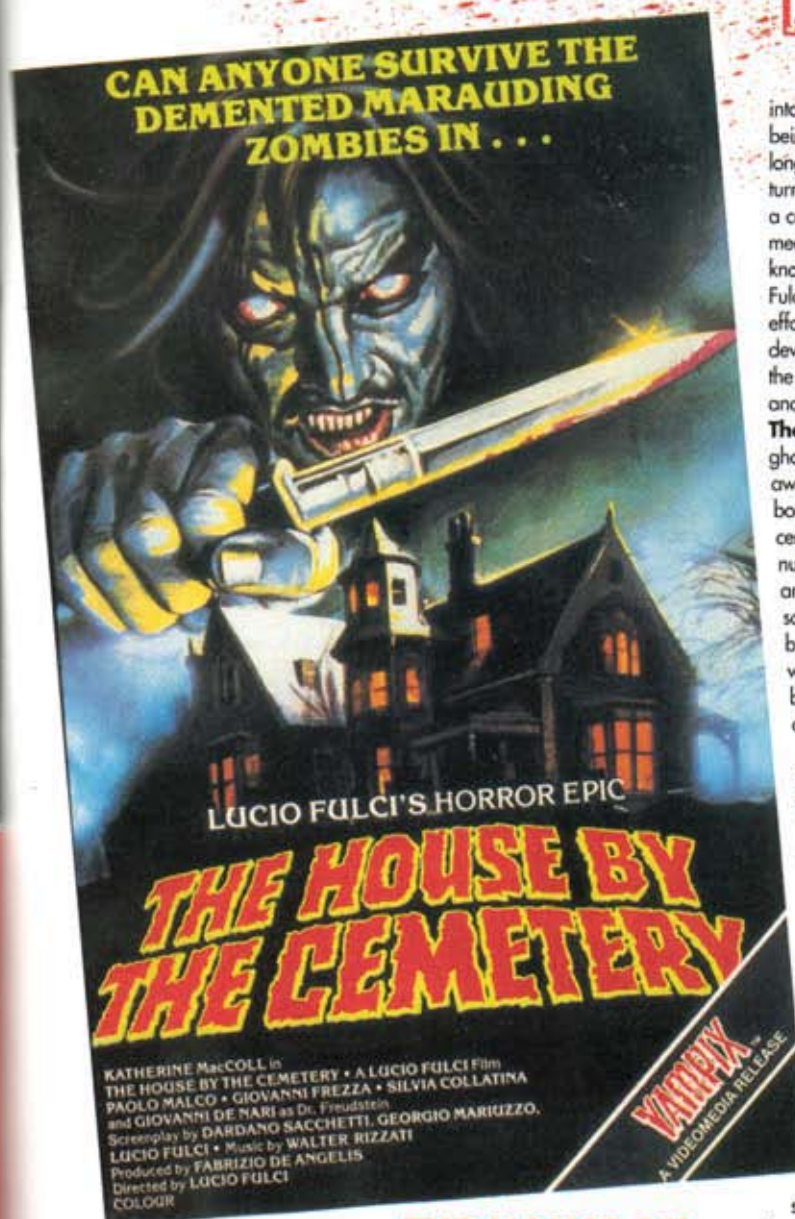
Any film with the word **Gestapo** in the title and containing scenes in which sexy birds are dunked in quicklime, forced to fellate pistols and sodomise the commandant of a concentration camp with the butt of a whip isn't going to be found on the shelves of your local

Blockbuster store any day soon. Like many of the notorious Nazi nasties this remains banned in the UK and many other countries as well. The only way you'll get your sticky mitts on this is to track down the DVD-R version sold by companies such as **Xploited.com**. It's in a non-anamorphic 1.85 ratio and uncut, with quite decent picture quality (though it must be noted that what's going on in the picture is often far from decent!). The problem is, this disc was sourced from a Japanese laser and has Spanish and Italian dialogue only, with Japanese subtitles. It also suffers from the usual Japanese complaint of optically blurring any public hair or genitalia – quite annoying here because there's so much full frontal nudity! The region 2 NTSC disc also contains a trailer. There's rumoured to be a German disc on the way, but don't hold your breath.

Next month: The property boom bites as we survey The House By The Cemetery!

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return of the VIDEO NASTIES!



THE HOUSE BY THE CEMETERY

College professor Paolo Malco, his wife Katherine MacColl, and their young son Giovanni Frezza shouldn't have any reason to complain about the neighbours when they move

into the Boston property of the title, but being as this is a Lucio Fulci film it's not long before the dead start raising hell. It turns out that the house used to belong to a certain Dr Freudstein, a deranged medic whose living dead remains are still knocking about in the cellar. One of Fulci's more complex films, this intriguing effort borrows *The Shining*'s plot device of having the young boy possess the gift/curse of foreseeing dire events, and there's even a bit of *The Turn Of The Screw* in the subplot about a ghostly little girl who urges the lad to get away from the hell house while all his body parts are still intact. Gore fans certainly get their money's worth, with numerous throat-slittings, beheadings and even bat-skewerings (with a pair of scissors). The intense finale is one of the best scenes Fulci ever directed. On the whole we still prefer *The Beyond*, but this legendary "nasty" rates high on the list of Italian gore classics.

DVD Availability

When released to UK cinemas in 1982 with an 'X' certificate, this film required 6 cuts totalling 34 secs. 3 cuts totalling 16 secs removed an estate agent being subjected to two stabs with a poker, including the slow motion gushing of blood from her wounds. A further 3 cuts totalling 18 secs were imposed on the scene of a nanny having her throat cut. The same version released on pre-VRA video caused it to get an entry in the **Video Nasties** list. Elephant Video finally released a BBFC-

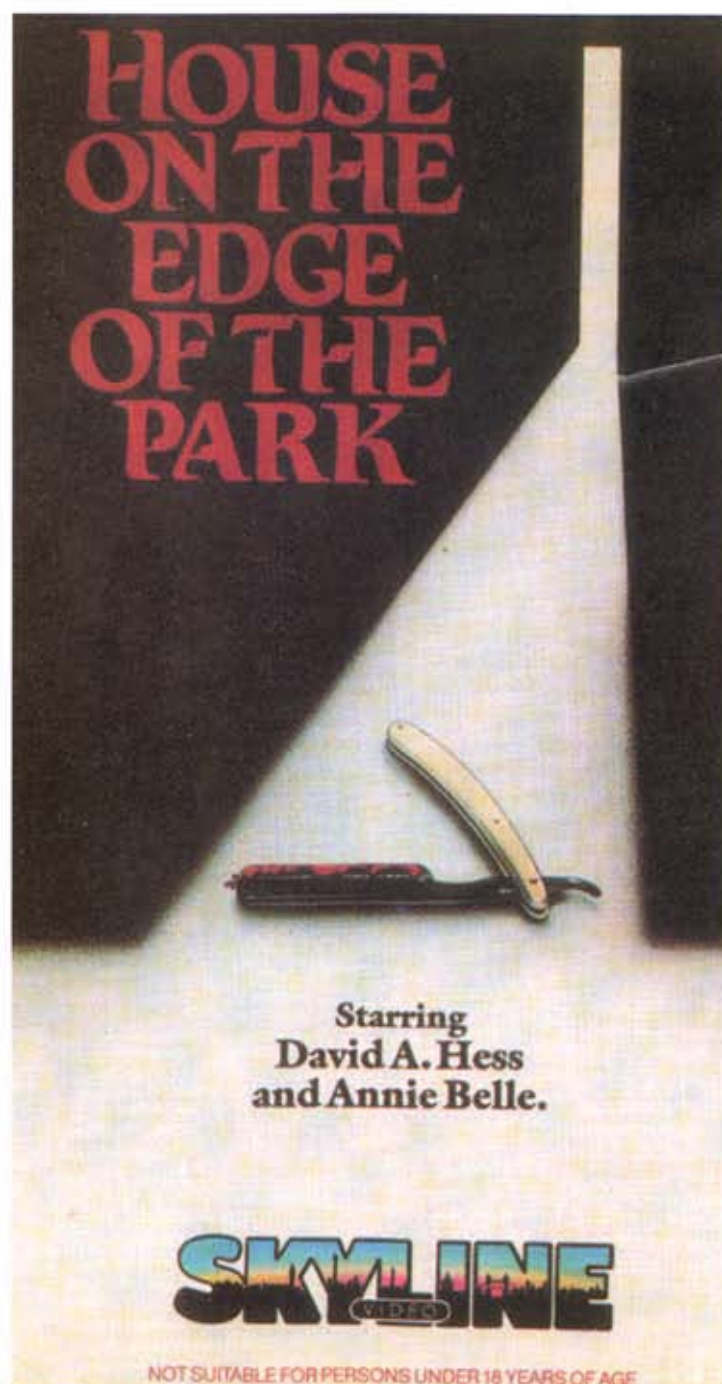
sanctioned video but this required a further 4 minutes and 11 secs of cuts, many of them performed by the distributor in advance. The kind of stuff that went was the girl being stabbed through the back of her head, through to her mouth, and of her body being dragged away. Also trimmed was the entire poker killing mentioned above, the

killing of a vampire bat and related blood spattering, shots of decomposing bodies in the cellar and the disembowelled man on the table. Nowadays you can get an uncut Japanese laserdisc version, a Danish release from VIPCO (avoid the British one) and a Dutch release from Chainsaw Video. But the definitive version is available from Anchor Bay in the US as a region free disc, presenting the film in a terrific uncut print (2.35:1 anamorphic).

HOUSE ON THE EDGE OF THE PARK

A sleazy shocker from the director of *Cannibal Holocaust*, starring *Last House On The Left* psycho David Hess, back in the old routine playing a crazed rapist who, along with his brain-dead mate John Morghen (a regular in nasties like

Cannibal Apocalypse and *Cannibal Ferox*) terrorises a group of spoiled yuppies after gate-crashing a party in a posh mansion. One rich kid is thrown into the swimming pool, and when he tries to climb out Hess urinates on him. Torture, rape, lesbianism and a 9mm castration are on the menu here, plus one of the most stupid "surprise" endings you are ever likely to see. In fact the ending is so ridiculous that it tends to negate everything that has gone before. Europorn starlet Annie Belle provides plenty of nudity and bad acting, and it's intriguing to see Morghen reunited with his *Ferox* co-star Lorraine de Selle. Hess seems to be enjoying his portrayal of a truly vile character who calls all women "Twats" and likes slicing his name on their naked bodies with a straight razor. Mind you, he certainly suffers for his indiscretions at the end, and his death scene is filmed in such excruciating slow motion that you could grow a beard watching it!



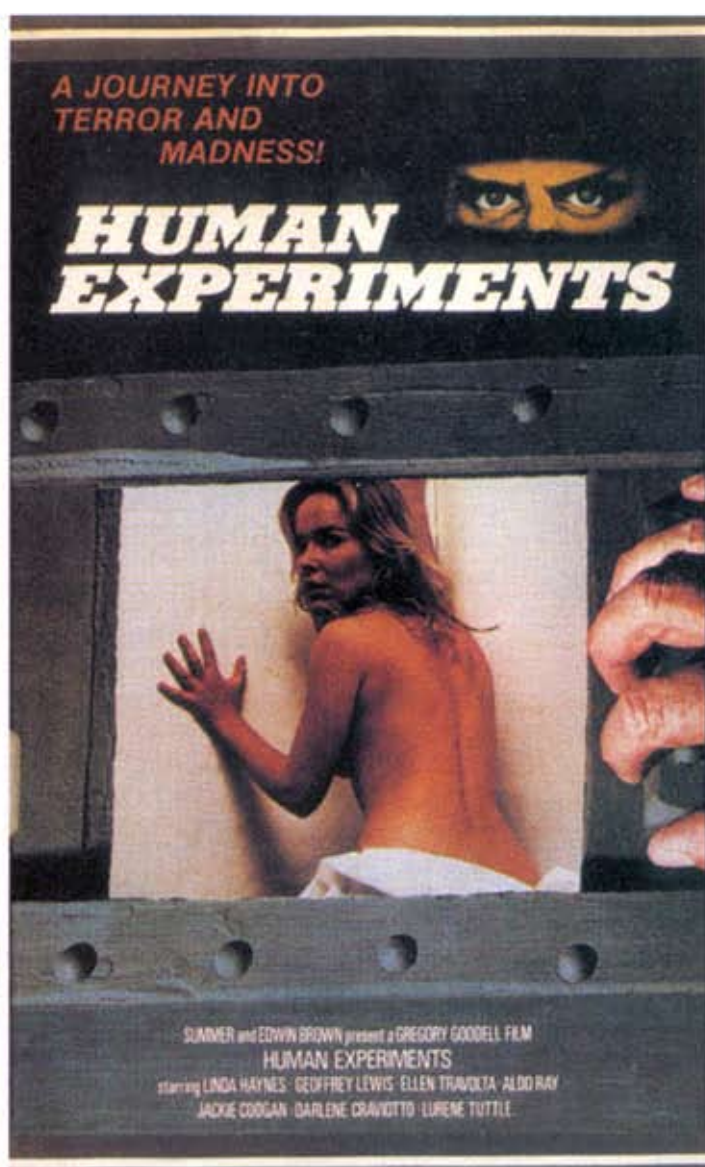
This Italian-made shocker is deeply unpleasant to watch, and that may be more than enough recommendation for some of you. Go on, admit it, you probably need psychiatric help before you go completely over the top... and launch a magazine like this one!

DVD Availability

When *The House On The Edge Of The Park* was first submitted to the BBFC in 1981 for a UK cinema release it shared the fate of the similarly titled (and themed) *Last House On The Left*, and was turned down point blank as being unacceptable - even with cuts. The film was therefore a natural for the **Nasties** list.

At first it seemed like good news when it was announced there would be a UK

video release last year, but the bad news was a staggering 11 mins 23 secs of cuts were required to various scenes of sex and sadism before this butchered version found its way into High Street shops. Shame. Surely this sort of thing should be covered by the Trade Descriptions Act? Not to worry, though, because there's a fantastic region 1 disc of this available from Media Blasters that presents us with an excellent quality, totally uncut transfer in anamorphic 1.85:1, plus theatrical trailers and interviews. Who says you can't put perfume on a pig? Actually, it's amazing to see how well photographed this movie was. This is a state-of-the-art transfer, and since the film is unlikely to be passed here uncut at any time in the near future then this has to be worth picking up.



HUMAN EXPERIMENTS

One of the early casualties of the **Video Nasties** crackdowns in the UK, it's difficult to see what caused such offense about this extremely boring psychological horror tale set in a lunatic asylum where country singer Linda Haynes is imprisoned (wrongly, of course) and subjected to the usual round of WIP indignities. There were plenty of WIP movies that got through unscathed and this doesn't have much that's contentious about it.

Doctor Geoffrey Lewis (father of actress Juliette and a regular in Clint Eastwood movies) is conducting bizarre behavioural experiments there, and rape and torture are all part of the learning curve. He exposes his human guinea pigs to bugs and spiders, shocking them into a state of catatonia. But he meets his match in the resourceful Haynes, who makes the bad Doc fall victim to his own treatment. Not in the slightest bit interesting, this one wastes an unusual cast of B-movie faves like Aldo Ray, Jackie Cooper and Ellen Travolta - yes, that's John's sister! One of

the least interesting of all of the so-called **Video Nasties**.

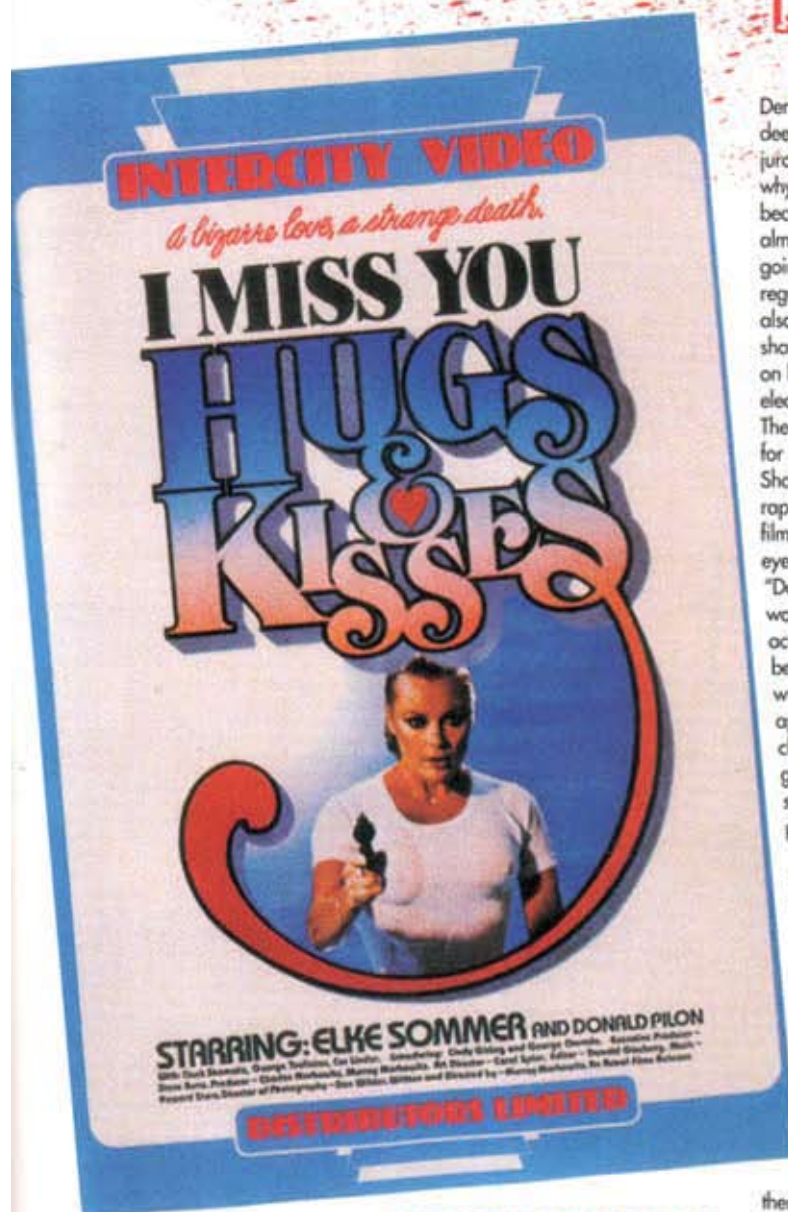
DVD Availability

There seems to be some doubt as to whether this movie was ever officially classed as a **Nasty**, though it did turn up on enough lists for us to have decided in its favour. Aka *Beyond The Gate*, the film had 26 secs removed for an 18 cinema release, and this seems to be the same version that's being touted around by our old friends at VPCO on VHS only. Nobody else seems to be bothered about this one - you can't even pick up a bootleg DVD at time of writing. So if you're desperate to see it then the slightly trimmed VPCO reissue (which is taken from the same master as the original **Nasties** entry, by the looks of it) seems the only way to go. As a word of consolation, you're not missing much if you skip this one entirely.

Next month: We go all soppy with I Miss You, Hugs And Kisses, and heat things up with Inferno!

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return of the VIDEO NASTIES!



I MISS YOU HUGS AND KISSES

Based on the real-life murder case of Toronto estate agent Peter Demeter, who was accused of killing his wife in 1975, this odd little movie puts forth a number of methods by which the crime could have taken place. It also concentrates on the common belief that

Demeter hired an outside party to do the deed, a view which eventually guided the jurors to a guilty plea. Goodness knows why the film ended up on the nasties list, because the violence is presented in an almost abstract fashion with the screen going red as poor old Elke Sommer (a regular in low-grade Italian horrors who also starred in *Carry On Behind!*) is shown having a building block dropped on her pretty bonce and being electrocuted while swimming in a pool. The chief suspect for the role of hit man for hire is a nutty guy played by Chuck Shamata, whose hobbies include the rape and murder of hitchhikers. In the film's most amusing moment, this wild-eyed loony turns to the jury and asks: "Do I look like the kind of guy who would hurt anybody?" Well yes, actually... There's an interesting story to be told here, but it's scuttled by writer/director Markham's scattershot approach to the narrative, which is so cluttered with flashbacks that you keep getting lost as to whether you're supposed to be in the past or the present.

DVD Availability

This was re-submitted a few years after the Video Recordings Act came into force. 1 min 6 secs were cut (including the gory results of a paving stone being dropped on someone's head) and the film was retitled *Drop Dead Dearest*. The distributor of the cut version was the now-defunct Heron Entertainment. Since then the film has been generally hard to find, though there was briefly a limited edition European DVD-R release that is thought to have originated in Germany. This was reportedly sourced from the same rather poor full screen master used to make up the Intercity title that was banned in the early 80s, though never having seen a copy of the disc I can't comment on the truth of this. Elke Sommer fans will have

to wait until a company like Anchor Bay rescues this from obscurity - but don't hold your breath.

INFERNO

Though many consider this a lacklustre follow-up to *Suspiria*, it's actually a very good movie which contains some of the best scenes Argento has ever committed to celluloid. The opening sequence in particular, where Irene Miracle (of *Midnight Express*) has a terrifying encounter with an animated corpse in a waterlogged ballroom, is a real spine-tingler. Though the plot makes little sense from there on in, the film comes the closest in all of Argento's work to approximating the look of a waking nightmare. The thin plot follows a number of people who come into possession of a book detailing the evil secrets of "The Three Mothers," an evil trio who rule the underworld. One by one the unlucky browsers get bumped off in a gruesome fashion, being stabbed, decapitated, set on fire, having their eyes gouged out, eaten by rats etc... Imported American soap star Leigh McCloskey is the baffled-looking young hero who eventually gets to the root of the problem, and wishes he hadn't. The episodic storyline makes it less entertaining first time round than it is on subsequent viewings. Of course it doesn't exactly help you to get involved in a movie if the main character is done in every ten minutes! Keith Emerson's haunting score is a major asset, and so is Romano Albani's lurid colour camerawork. The only scene that caused controversy here involves a cat eating a mouse - doesn't that sort of thing go on in the real world?

DVD Availability

This respected Dario Argento movie is another that should never have made the Nasties list in the first place, and it only took 21 secs of cuts to persuade the BBFC to allow it through with a video 18. These incorporated a 2 sec cut as Sacha Pitoeff

Video Nasties



20th Century Fox Video

Inferno

VHS
1140-50



Come face to face with Hell...

Inferno
A film by DARIO ARGENTO

barrel - with a predictably messy outcome. Of course in the end the couple get their comeuppance, Celia by being ravaged by a moronic shepherd and Chris by being thrown into a lime pit where he will inevitably be burned alive. Mastorakis has given us a lot of forgettable video fodder in his time, and this is by far his most memorable film. Well worth a look.

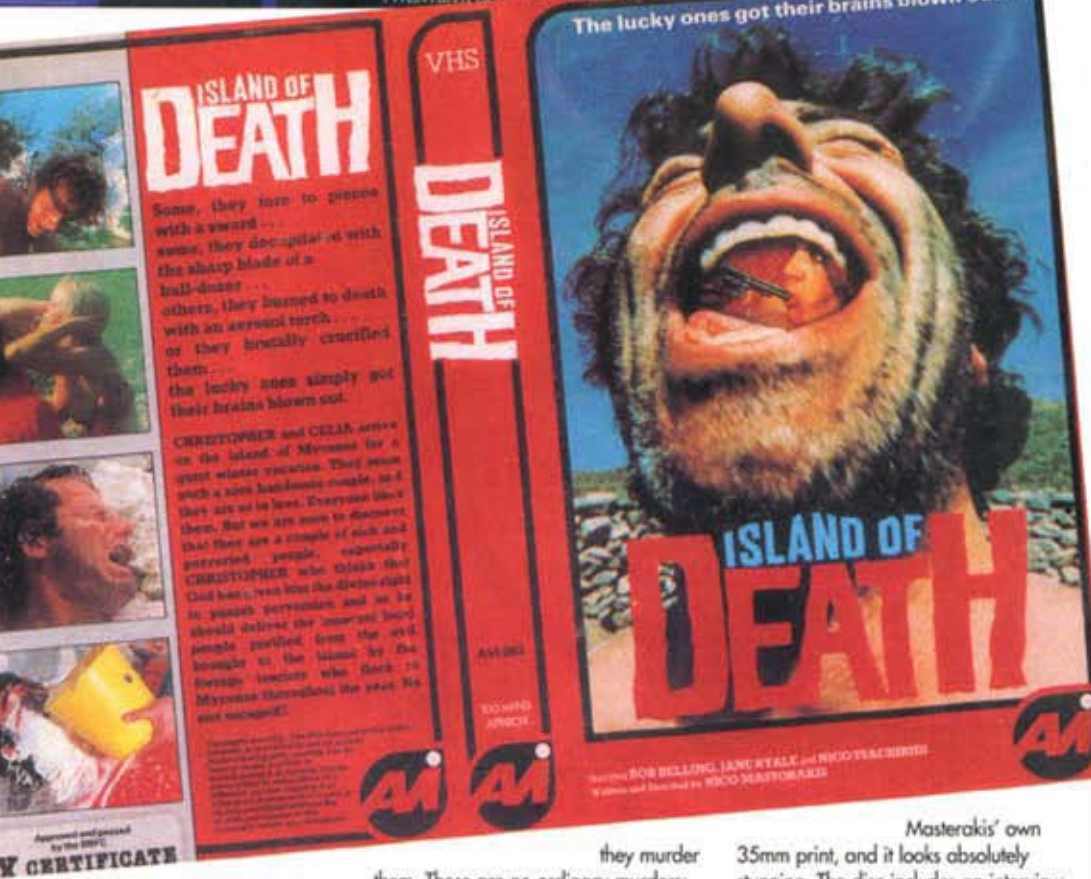
DVD Availability

Island of Death was pre-cut by 13 minutes and resubmitted to the BBFC by VIFCO as **Psychic Killer 2**. The BBFC still banned it. The film did, however, get a cinema release in cut form under the title of **A Craving For Lust**. Then in 2002 the movie was submitted again for a UK video certificate, and this time it was passed with over 4 minutes of cuts to scenes of sexual violence and 'dehumanising sexual activity' (specifically the scene where somebody gets peed on!). The film did, however, finally get an uncut release early in 2003 thanks to Image in the US. Their region free disc was taken from director Nico

beats a cat against the side of a chair, and the removal of 3 shots totalling 19s of a cat eating a mouse. If such sights do not easily offend you then you can head over to Amazon or some other US supplier and pick up the totally uncut region 0 American release. Available on the Anchor Bay label, this is a terrific-looking disc mastered in 1.85:1 anamorphic, with 5.1 Dolby Digital sound. Cast and crew biographies, production stills and a trailer. Special features include an exclusive Dario Argento interview.

ISLAND OF DEATH

This is a really sick little movie, originally let loose under the more appropriate title of **Island Of Perversion**. It certainly fosters the image of Greece as a country where men are men and sheep are scared! At the beginning, a young guy named Chris is seen giving his girlfriend Celia a good seeing-to in a telephone box. What's sick about that? Well, for a start they are actually brother and sister, and secondly they have phoned their mum up in the middle so she can tune in to their



orgasmic grunts. Later on, Christopher feels he wants a bit of a change, so he goes out and fornicates with a goat, slitting its throat afterwards so that it doesn't rat on him! It seems that Celia and Chris share the same hobby: they like to watch each other having sex with strangers, and then take photographs as

they murder them. These are no ordinary murders: Chris pours whitewash in the mouth of one of Celia's lovers, and on another occasion he pees on a mature American woman before burying her with a dump truck. Surprisingly puritanical when it comes to tolerating homosexuality, Chris invades a gay party with a sword, later forcing the sole survivor to fellate a gun

Mastorakis' own 35mm print, and it looks absolutely stunning. The disc includes an interview with Mastorakis himself (who has an acting role in the film) and a madcap music video, plus stills and posters.

Next month: We spit on your grave and check out the bad habits of a Killer Nun!

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return of the VIDEO NASTIES!

THIS WOMAN HAS JUST...

CUT, CHOPPED, BROKEN
AND BURNED FOUR
MEN BEYOND
RECOGNITION...
BUT NO JURY
IN AMERICA
WOULD EVER
CONVICT HER!

I SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE
AN ACT OF REVENGE!

Starring CAMILLE KEATON ERON TABOR RICHARD PACE ANTHONY NICHOLS
produced by JOSEPH ZBEDA
written and directed by MEIR ZARCHI
RUNNING TIME 98 MIN

ASTRA VIDEO



I SPIT ON YOUR GRAVE

This infamous movie features one of the most graphic and vicious gang-rape scenes ever committed to celluloid. But it's presented in a cold, dispassionate manner with no background music to cue our emotions. Camille Keaton (Buster's grand-niece) plays a writer on holiday in a backwoods community who is raped twice by four local thugs (one of whom is

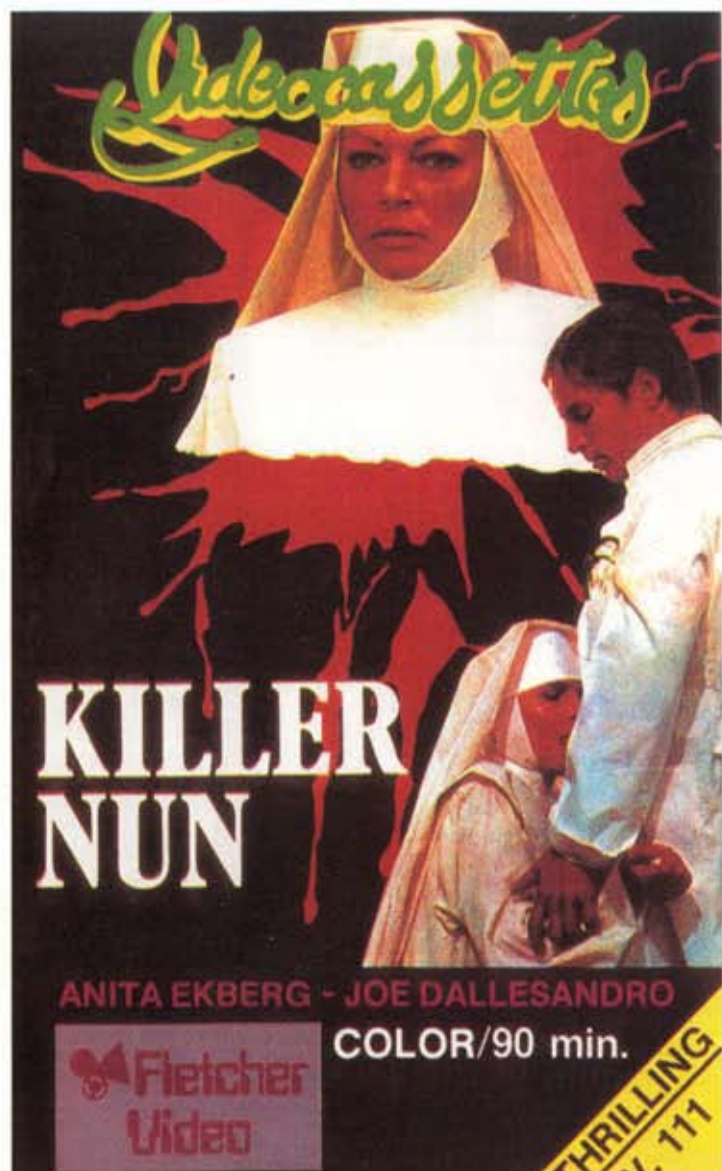
mentally retarded). They leave her for dead, but she recovers and wreaks a brutal revenge on her attackers, castrating one guy in the bath, chopping one up with an axe, and slicing another to pieces with an outboard motor. Though technically very rough, the film is nevertheless very powerful in places, and as already mentioned, the lack of background music gives it a disquieting feeling of documentary reality. It's almost as notorious as *The Last House On The Left*, and very nearly as well made. Writer/director Zarchi reportedly based his story on a real-life incident where he discovered a girl who had been gang-raped in a city park and was disgusted to

see that the police were more interested in what she was doing there alone than in giving her medical help. Of course the heroine of this picture doesn't even think of going to the cops! Keaton isn't shown as a strong-willed character who dishes out a cold and brutal revenge for the violation of her body. The gore scenes are low budget and rely on suggestion rather than bloody effects, though the bit where our heroine relieves the main baddie of his meat and two veg will bring tears to your eyes!

DVD Availability

The UK company Hardgore gave us a UK disc of this much-reviled 1981 US rape and revenge film by Meir Zarchi.

Video Nasties



They stated that 'only 41 seconds of cuts were made,' rather than the 7 minutes, which were removed from this when it was first submitted back in 2001. But that's not the whole story. Basically, the latest submission was pre-cut by the distributor in line with the BBFC's 2001 cuts list. However, this time they decided to make the cuts differently. Some of the cuts were made by reframing (rather than removing) unacceptable material. This means that certain sequences that were previously cut are now partially present, albeit in a reframed version. As for the 41 seconds of cuts, these occurred at the one point where the BBFC didn't feel that the reframing (and their other tricks, such as use of slow motion) achieved the effect required by the 2001 cuts list. Basically, they had reframed the rape over the rock so that you couldn't see the woman being raped (she was below screen) but you could still see the attackers thrusting and enjoying the attack. The BBFC asked for this to be removed.

Luckily an uncut region 1 DVD is available from Elite in the USA. This looks

stunning in 1.85:1 anamorphic, and also features an audio commentary by writer/director Zarchi and cult film guru Joe Bob Briggs, plus lots of other goodies.

KILLER NUN

Former screen sexpot Anita Ekberg changes the habits of a lifetime in this salacious exploitation shocker supposedly drawn "From the secret archives of the Vatican." An ageing and out-of-shape Ekberg plays Sister Gertrude, a modern-day nun working in a mental asylum. Thanks to her addiction to morphine she is crazier than her patients, and though she hates men it doesn't stop her having sex with them. She bumps off some of the more troublesome inmates and diverts suspicion on to a fellow nun who also happens to be a drug addict. In the end it's up to Mother Superior Alida Valli to restore the status quo by slipping Anita a poisoned chalice. The murder scenes are the best part of the show, with patients being bashed over the head with a lamp and thrown through windows, strangled, kicked to death and perforated with pins.

Though it starts out promisingly with plenty of sleazy ingredients, **Killer Nun** ends up being a rather dour and depressing sort of movie, not at all the sort of film you'd imagine from the title. Those with catholic tastes will take Angel Of Vengeance over this one any day!

DVD Availability

13 seconds of cuts rescued this fairly mild nunsploration flick from the Nasties list and allowed it to be released on the Redemption label in the late-90s. Unfortunately this cut and VHS-only release remains just about the only way to get this one at present, while many lesser nun flicks (particularly from Jess Franco) proliferate on foreign labels). At least the Redemption release is presented in 1.85:1 widescreen and drawn from a very good print. It's possible that the same company may resurrect it at some time on their Salvation label, but it was officially deleted in early 2003. There are bootleg DVD-Rs floating about if you know where to look, but these are poor quality and seem to have been drawn from a trimmed print – so purchase at your peril!

LATE NIGHT TRAINS

The international popularity of **Last House On The Left** inevitably led to a number of Italian rip-offs. The worst was Ferdinando Baldi's second class **Terror Express**, and the best is this efficient and compelling effort from Aldo Lado. Drug-crazed nutters Curly and Blackie (Gianfranco di Grassi and Flavio Bucci) establish their psycho credentials from the off by brutally mugging a Father Christmas. Then they terrorise two young schoolgirls on a train (one of whom is a young Irene Miracle, later to appear in **Inferno** and **Midnight Express**), eventually murdering them both with the help of a depraved woman (Macha Meril from **Deep Red**) they

meet on the journey. But retribution awaits at the end of the line when they accidentally check into the home of the vengeful parents. Ennio Morricone's score adds a much-needed touch of class to the sleazy proceedings.

DVD Availability

There is some doubt if this was ever actually prosecuted, and therefore it remains a borderline nasty, though it has never been passed for a UK cinema or video release by the BBFC. Also known as **Torture Train** and **The Night Train Murders**, this can now only be obtained via a bootleg DVD-R edition that appears to have been gleaned from a good quality (probably Japanese) source. The image on this is presented in 1.85 non-anamorphic widescreen and the DVD-R contains even more footage than the banned version – though there is no extra gore, violence or sex on offer, just additional dialogue scenes that flesh out the characters more. The DVD-R also contains a trailer. Blue Underground have announced they will be putting out a special edition of this title soon.



Next month: Check into Love Camp 7 – it's not nearly as nice as it sounds, though!

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return of the VIDEO NASTIES!



LOVE CAMP 7

Though it's pretty tame stuff compared to later Nazi concentration camp exploitationers like *Ilsa, She Wolf of the SS*, this sleazy little movie still leaves a nasty taste. The far-fetched plot has two WACs going undercover in a Nazi prison camp to get vital information from a scientist being held there. There's a lot of nudity, but not too much violence, and it's hard to take it seriously since the



Nazi Love Camp

STARRING
SANDRA LANE/CARL SISTI/ROBERT POST
MIKE MORRIS/CHRISTY BORG
BLAUER COLOR

SEX SLAVES OF THE SS!



acting and accents are so unconvincing. The filmmakers seem more interested in sweaty softcore gropings than the hardcore torture stuff that's found in the *Ilsa* flicks. In one amusing scene a guard dog is set upon a line of female prisoners but seems more interested in playing in the jet of water they are being hosed down with! Producer R.W. Cresse plays the commandant, and famed grindhouse producer David Friedman turns up as a goose-stepping general. They have fun, even if the audience doesn't.

DVD Availability

This remains banned in the UK, and like most of the concentration camp-type Nasties there seems little point for any distributor to give them a test spin at the BBFC. Having said that, somebody did in 2002, and they were predictably given the bum's rush! It was released in Europe uncut a few years back under the Redemption Benelux label, complete with salacious stills from the movie, in a



particularly lip-smacking package. This is no longer available, but a disc is available from the Netherlands-based DVD Classics label. This is completely uncut and gives us a full screen transfer in English and Italian (with subtitles). The picture quality is marginally better than the original VHS Nasties edition, but not as good as the Redemption tape.

LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT

Wes Craven's shocking drive-in reworking of Bergman's *The Virgin Spring* is one of the most reviled films in movie history. It's also famous for giving the world that infamous tagline, "Just keep repeating, it's only a movie... it's only a movie!" The film graphically details the atrocities committed by a group of escaped convicts, who kidnap, rape and murder two teenage girls on their way home from a rock concert. In a typically savage touch, one of the girls is made to pee in her pants before she is disembowelled. After hiding the bodies the gang take refuge in the home of a suburban couple who turn out to be the parents of one of the girls they have slaughtered. The parents then take equally vile revenge (a chainsaw figure prominently) in the final reel. Craven has said this film came out of his rage at the atrocities committed in the Vietnam War, but it sounds like an excuse to us. *Last House* is all the more disturbing for being well made. The acting and direction have an edge of documentary realism and, though sickening, the film does have a point to make, like who is worse, the depraved convicts who have made murder a way of life, or the girls' affluent, God-fearing parents, who allow themselves to throw away their value system to enact a



bloody, tortuous revenge? If Craven had never made another movie this would still have assured his place in the Horror Hall of Fame.

DVD Availability

This most contentious of Nasties was rejected for a cinema release in 1974 and again in 2000. It did achieve an arthouse circuit release in 2000, but only under private cinema club rules. In 2002 Carl Daft and David Gregory of Exploited famously picked up the film for a UK release. When the BBFC demanded fairly extensive cuts to the some of the rape and torture sequences, Carl and David fought the case via the toothless Video Appeals Committee - who then asked for even more cuts than the BBFC had! It was eventually released on DVD by Anchor Bay UK with 31 secs of cuts, but although this additional footage was not allowed to feature on the disc, it can actually be seen on the internet on a secret website. The instructions to access the site are hidden on the first disc of this double-disc set. From the Main Menu of the first disc, highlight the Play menu entry and then press Right on your remote control. This should make the windows of the house in the background turn red - pressing Enter on your remote control at this point will give you the address and password to use. Alternately, you can buy the uncut American disc, though the British one has even better extras on it. Who cares about the BBFC anyway?

THE LIVING DEAD AT THE MANCHESTER MORGUE

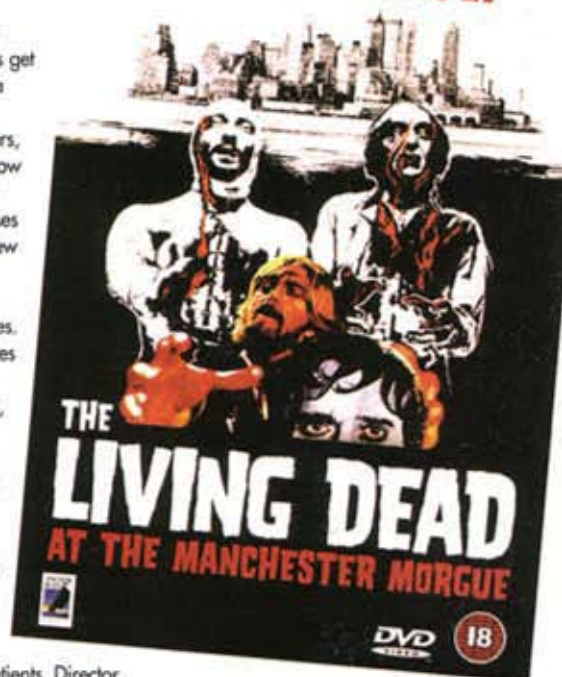
Originally released to UK cinemas on a double bill with Pete Walker's excellent cannibal chiller, *Frightmare*, this early Italian zombie movie was actually shot amid the scenic splendour of our own Lake District. The hero of the film (Roy Lovelock) is a

bearded art dealer whose 'hippy' looks get him the blame for a series of brutal cannibalistic murders, even though we know these were actually committed by corpses reanimated by a new government pest control device that employs sonic waves. Arthur Kennedy goes laughably over the top as a fascist cop, and the plotting is dumb to say the least. The film does have its eerie moments however, most notably in the gory climax where zombies take over a hospital and scuff most of the patients. Director Grau (a pupil of Antonioni) gets good value out of the scenery and Giannetto de Rossi's realistic gore effects. Scenes showing a nurse having her breast torn off and a policeman being graphically disembowelled were trimmed for the UK cinema release but restored for the uncut video - later branded a video nasty. He even takes a stab at some art-house pretentiousness when, in the opening scenes, he makes a comment on the dreariness of modern life by showing us rush hour crowds of zombie commuters who don't bat an eyelid when a naked woman runs through their midst. Why does this sort of thing never happen in my neck of the woods?

DVD Availability

1 minute 27 secs of cuts were made to this one by the distributor (European Creative Video) before it was re-submitted to the BBFC after the Video Recordings Act, and then the censors cut

LET SLEEPING CORPSES LIE



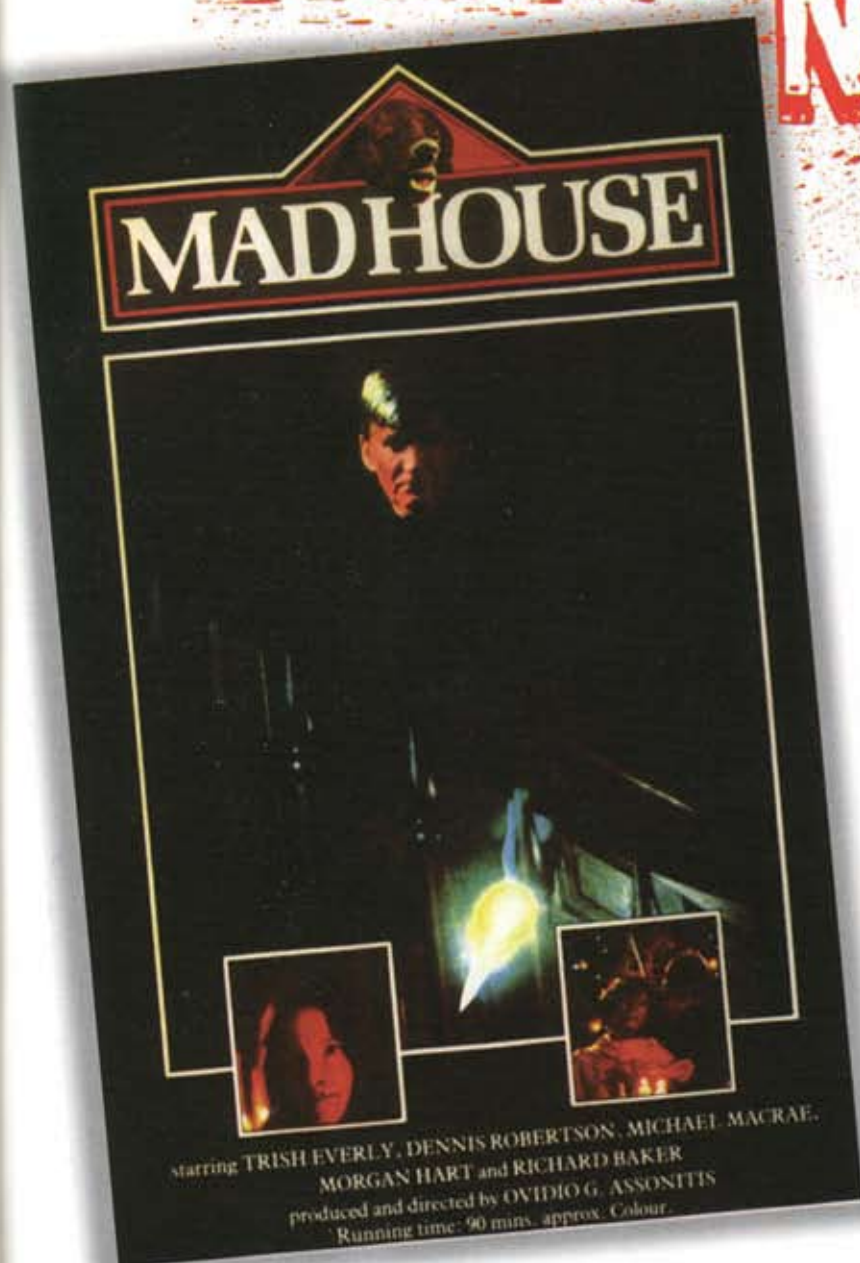
a further 26 seconds. But common sense prevailed in 2001 when the film was finally passed uncut for a UK DVD release on the Anchor Bay label. Anchor Bay released the same version in the States, a stunning 1.85:1 anamorphic transfer that was a hundred times better looking than either the cut cinema print or the version put out by ECT. Extras on the UK and US discs include plentiful stills and posters, a nice colour booklet, plus an interview with director Jorge Grau. Even more collectable was the Anchor Bay US limited edition in a big tin case, with postcards and further extras. All of these versions were remastered in 5.1 Dolby Digital sound. As of time of writing you can pick up cheap copies of this for around a fiver at HMV! •

Next month: Join us in sunny New Orleans - for The Mardi Gras Massacre!

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return of the

VIDEO NASTIES!



madhouse

Not to be confused with the thoroughly innocent Vincent Price/Peter Cushing movie of the same name, this intriguing splatter opus is a psychological thriller in the same mould as Brian de Palma's *Sisters*. The main character Julia ((Everly) is a teacher in a school for deaf children. Her mad, hideously disfigured twin escapes from an asylum with the aid of a ferocious killer dog and sets out to provide a memorable birthday "treat" for her sister, who she blames for

having her banged up in the first place. Part of the surprise involves slaughtering all her friends in a gory fashion, and then setting the corpses up at the table in an imitation of party time at the Ed Gein homestead! There are plenty of clichés to be found here, but it's not bad of its kind, with some good gore to offend animal lovers (though that dog does look like a stuffed dummy) and that old DPP favourite, a harrowing drill-through-the-bonze sequence. It's also notable for being the only video nasty to quote George Bernard Shaw in the credits!

DVD Availability

Not to be confused with the old Vincent Price/Peter Cushing Brit horror flick of the 70s, or the 1991 Kirstie Alley comedy of the same name, this has recently been released on a fairly decent uncut UK DVD (with no extras, sadly) by Film 2000. You should be able to pick up a copy very cheaply indeed should you so wish. The only contentious scene was the murder of a dog, but there's no way this falls foul of the BBFC's rules on animal cruelty because you can easily see the mutt is a fake one.

mardi gras massacre

Shot in New Orleans by people who should have been shot in New Orleans, this cheapie gore movie obviously owes a big debt of inspiration to the early films of Herschell Gordon Lewis. How the makers managed to stretch the squalid storyline out to feature length is a mystery that most sensible folk wouldn't consider worth investigating - a single photograph would have been plenty to tell the whole story. Basically, the *Blood Feast*-type plot involves the grisly activities of an Aztec priest (in a welder's mask!) who hangs around sleazy strip joints and kidnaps second-rate actresses to sacrifice to his goddess, Coatla - "God of the Four Directions and Queen of Evil in the Universe." This ineptly-made obscurity boasts one half-decent gore effect of a latex stomach being sliced open and bloody organs being removed, but it loses its impact after the makers have repeated it for the third time. Heroine Laura Misch was *Playboy*'s Miss February of 1975, and her limited acting ability fits right in with the rest of the cast.

DVD Availability

This title remains banned in the UK and has not been resubmitted to the BBFC. The gore scenes are so phoney, and pretty much the same sliced latex



torso repeated over and over again, so it's plain that the film would be passed uncut with an 18 certificate if anyone could be bothered to pick it up. However, it's such a terrible movie, padded out with interminable chat and some of the worst acting you'll ever see, that I can't see it having any commercial value whatsoever. In the States it has only ever been released on VHS and as a cut-rate DVD-R by the Florida-based Something Weird Video. The print used by SWV is a very scratchy fullscreen version with faded colours and an at-times-inaudible soundtrack. To be honest, the original VHS that made the Nasties list is probably better quality all round.

nightmare maker

The director of many episodes of *I Love Lucy* and a lot of AIP beach movies joined the nasties list with this odd little yarn about a 17-year-old high school kid (played by McNichol - brother of Kristy) who is brought up by his aunt (Tyrrel) after his parents are killed in a - superbly staged - car crash. In the reverse of Norman Bates' situation in *Psycho*, she turns the boy into a surrogate husband and becomes a psychopathic killer to keep him around the house. For most of the running time, this is

a superior psychological thriller in the *Whatever Happened To Baby Jane?* mould, enlivened by Tyrrel's outstanding performance. It also paints a convincingly warped picture of the xenophobia of small-town American life, and has a lot of effective black humour. There's a fair amount of graphic gore in the end scenes, but otherwise it's a good and intelligently written little movie that seems to have offended because of its overly convincing portrayal of a semi-incestuous relationship.

DVD Availability

Though this has been out in the USA on tape as *Night Warning*, the film remains banned in the UK. It was resubmitted in 1987, in a version that had been pre-cut by its would-be distributor, and with the new title of *The Evil Protégé*, but this version was rejected by the BBFC. It seems likely they object to the incestuous tone of the movie as a whole rather than any gore scenes - of which there are very few, actually. As of time of writing it's rumoured that a US DVD release is in the offing through Image under the original title of *Butcher, Baker, Nightmare Maker*. Possible specs include a new 1.85:1 anamorphic transfer and maybe even a commentary by one of the stars. We'll believe it when we see it. You can get a DVD-R, but this looks suspiciously like it was mastered (not very well) from the old 80s tape!

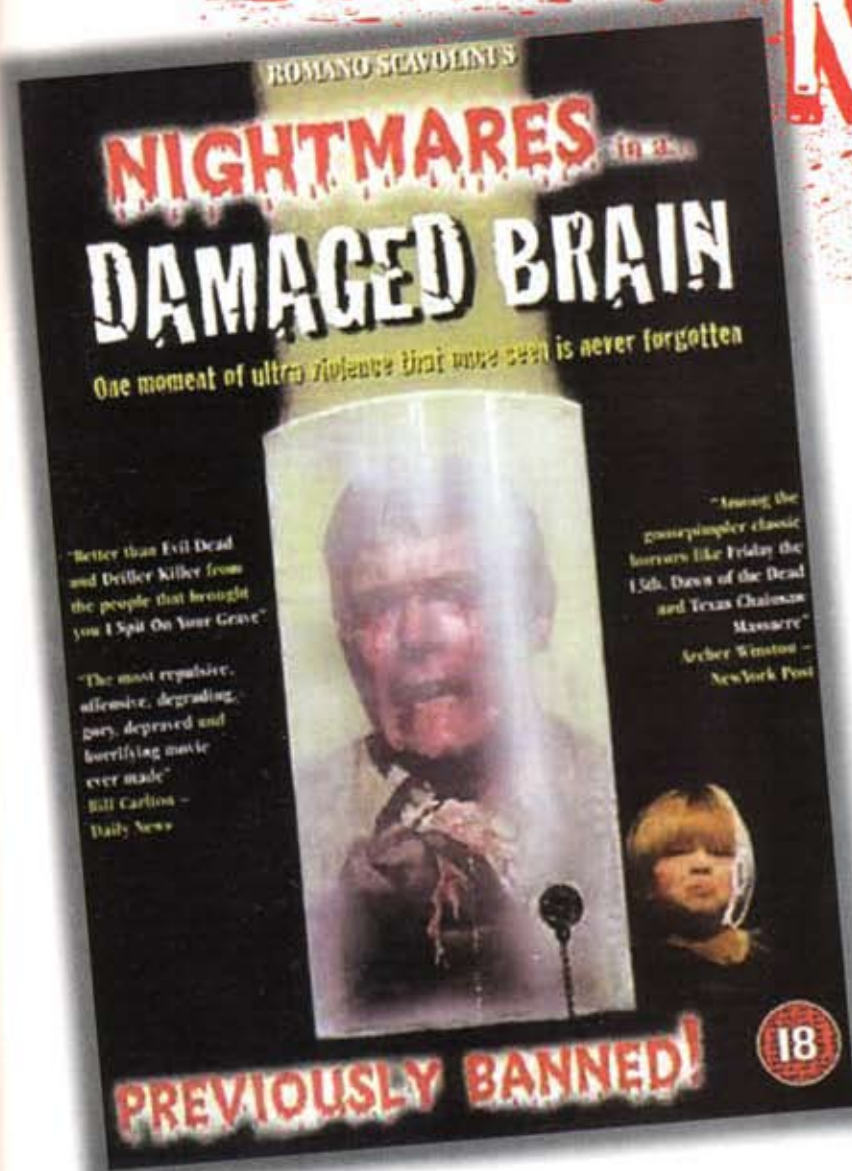
Next month: Guess the weight of the brain in a jar... and read all about the nasty gore movie that a UK distributor got sent to jail over!



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return of the

VIDEO NASTIES!



nightmares in a damaged brain

One of the most controversial of all video nasties, the distributor of this movie was actually put in prison for six months for releasing a video version that was sixty seconds longer than the BBFC-certificated version. This seems unbelievable (a fine would surely have been sufficient), but then the whole 'nasties' situation was more frighteningly absurd than the plots of most of the movies being banned. Shot in Florida by the director of *Dog Tags*, it's a lurid, extremely violent exploitation movie about a sexual psychopath under treatment for nightmares because, as a child, he axed his parents to death when he caught them having a bedroom bondage session. Supposedly cured by drug therapy, he

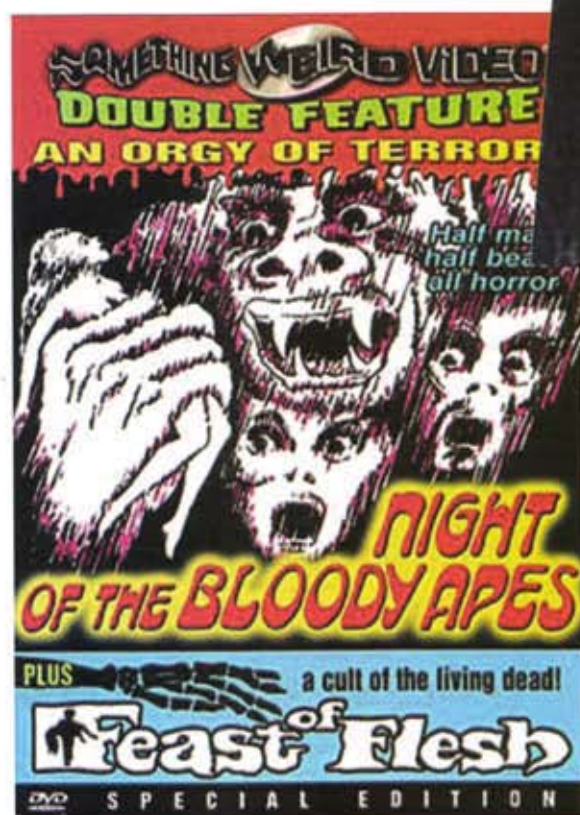
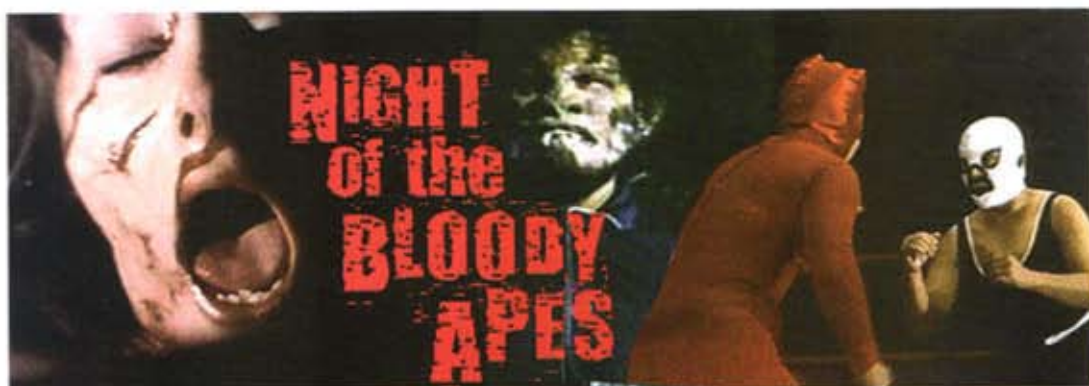
is released. But after a visit to a New York sex shop (and a really sleazy scene where he drools at the mouth and has a fit in a peepshow booth) he sets off to terrorise single parent Sharon Smith and her three kids. The effects (Tom Savini acted as consultant) are grim indeed, with severed heads and axings galore. The oft-repeated nightmare scene is truly horrible. But what really leaves a nasty taste in the mouth is the film's misogynist tone and the way it links hardcore violence to explicit sex. The original promotion of this film involved the giving out of vomit bags and a "Guess The Weight Of The Brain" competition. Happy days, eh?

DVD Availability

This notorious title was recently re-released in the UK as a region free disc by Screen Entertainment. Their disc included a photo gallery with posters and screen grabs. The film was presented in 4:3 fullscreen in an okay print with a fair bit of grain and lurid colours. The distributor claimed it was uncut, but that was only because they pre-cut it by 3 mins 24 secs! In Germany the movie was put out by Laser Paradise in fullscreen, but it seems likely this version was cut as well because the film was originally banned in Germany. There are many different cuts of this film. Most versions are missing most of the bloody moments, but there are also longer dialogue sequences in some cut versions than in other uncut prints. The longest version that is commonly available on VHS, runs about 99 minutes. The kind of stuff that's cut usually relates to the axe murder at the start, though the sleazy 'peep show' sequence also gets trimmed.

night of the bloody apes

This madcap Mexican horror flick tells of a scientist who puts the heart of a gorilla into the body of his dying son, who is suffering from what the scientist refers to as "loose-seam-ia." The operation is a resounding success, but then the re-animated lad turns into a pug-ugly marauding killer who rapes and rips apart every living being in sight. "I was prepared for everything but this," comments the disappointed Doc. Ah well, bang goes that cover story for *The Lancet*! Anyway, old monkey-face has his lustful sights set on cat-suited heroine Norma Lazareno, but she's a professional wrestler who manages to give him a swift boot in the coconuts. There's a lot of ridiculous gore, including a scalping that is accomplished by the simple expedient of the monster pulling a wig off a bald-headed bloke! And it's funny that the monkey man's make-up doesn't go below his neck. The only people who took this daft nonsense seriously were the DPP, and the reasons for their



objections seem to be centred around some graphic open-heart surgery that the makers have inserted in the "ape operation" scenes. A lot of this is unwatchable, but then so is a lot of the stuff you get on TV hospital shows, and some of that goes out at 7.00 PM in the evening!

DVD Availability

This one's problems stem mainly from its gory footage of open-heart surgery, but as I said, this stuff is shown on telly at times anyway, so what's the problem? Something Weird Video recently released an all-region disc of this

movie on a double bill with *Feast Of Flesh*. It's uncut, and among the extras are three minutes of outtakes, trailers, TV spots and a variety of ape-related short subjects. *Bloody Apes* is presented in 4:3 fullscreen and mono, and the print is quite nice, though a little grainy in places. There's also a cheapie region 1 disc from Beverly Wiltshire Filmworks, and in the UK the film was released by Film 2000/Salvation in a version that was pre-cut by the distributor to remove a minute or so. Overall, the SWV disc is the clear winner. You may also find the movie on imports under the title of *Horror Y Sexo*.

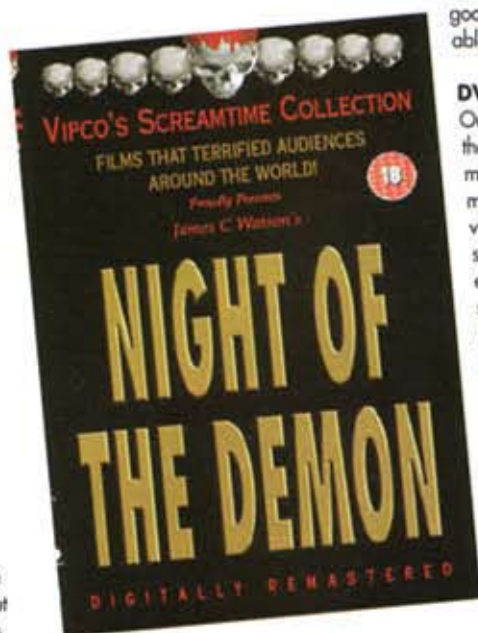


night of the demon

Not to be confused with Jacques Tourneur's classic black and white version of M.R. James' *Casting The Runes*, this is a graphic gorefest in which the legend of "Big Foot" provides the low-budget chills and spills. Murder and mayhem are the dish of the day as a big hairy monster goes on the rampage in the boonies, ripping a country bumpkin's arm out of his socket and beating him to death with the soggy end! Entrails are waved in the air, and in the most talked-about scene (well, in my household anyway) a motorist who stops for a pee by the side of the road gets his wedding tackle hoisted! The monster itself is barely shown until the end, when it turns out to be pretty daft-looking. But as graphic gorefests go, this one certainly offers value for money. The final scenes are great, with one kid getting his face fried on a hot stove and another being whipped to death with his own spilled guts - all shown in excruciating, hilarious slow-motion! Not a good movie by any means, but an understandable addition to the list.

DVD Availability

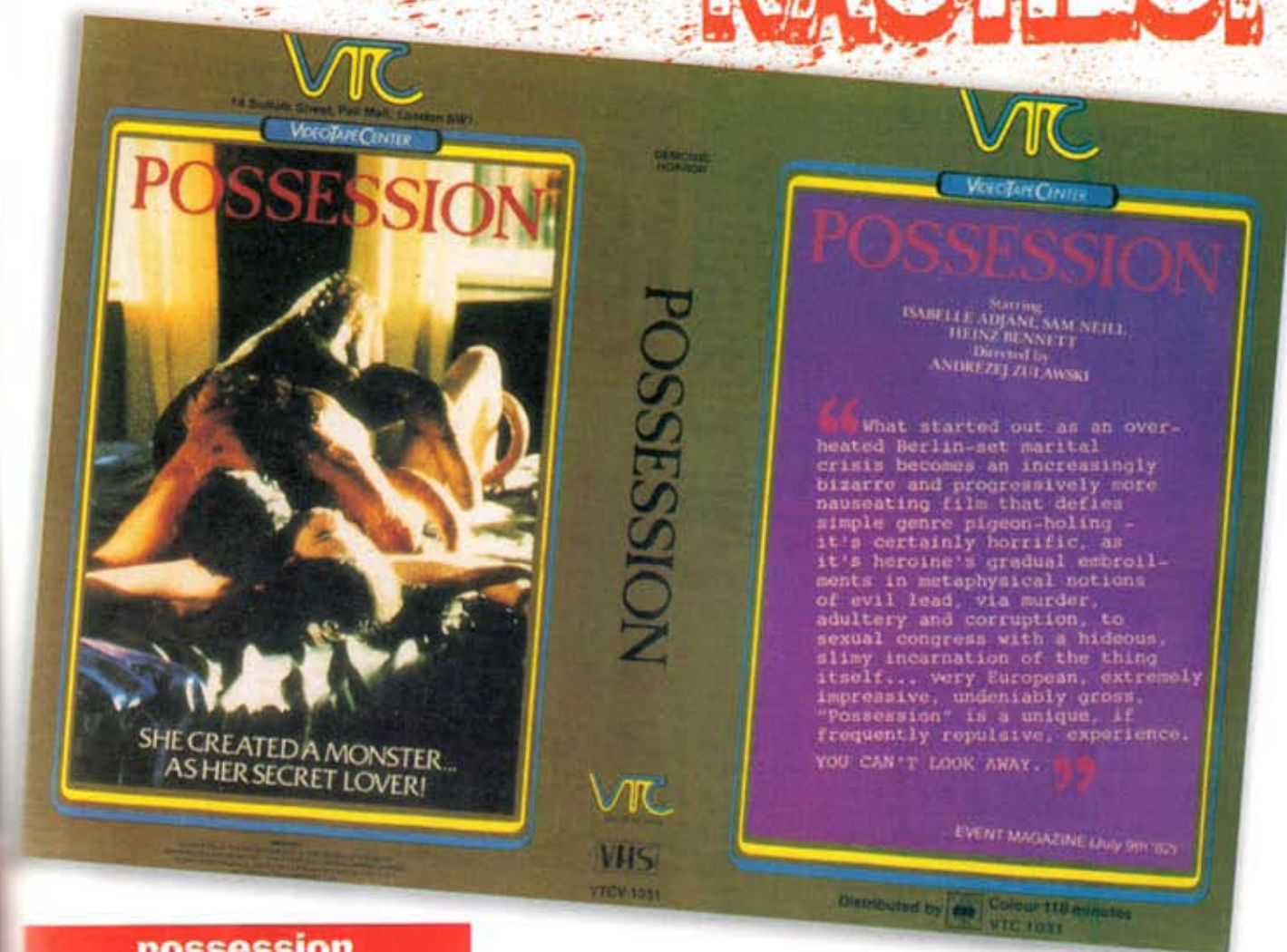
Our old friends at VPCO dusted this one off in the late 90s and ran it past the BBFC once more. The result was 1 minute 41 secs of cuts, mainly to the cabin massacre where one victim gets face-fried on a hotplate, sunny side up, and the film was re-released as an ex-Nasty. My guess is that if the film was submitted again now it would get through unscathed, since the monster is daft, the plot unbelievable, and the effects (though gloatingly lingered on) extremely unconvincing. As it is, there's no point in picking up VPCO's hacked-about version, which is a very poor fullscreen transfer undoubtedly drawn from the same tape master as the 1980s version that made the DPP list. It has been suggested that the film is available in the UK on a limited edition DVD-R, but I have yet to hear from anyone who's seen one of these.



Next month: Isabelle Adjani makes love to a slimy, octopus-like creature and has his baby. Could be torn from today's headlines...

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return of the VIDEO NASTIES!



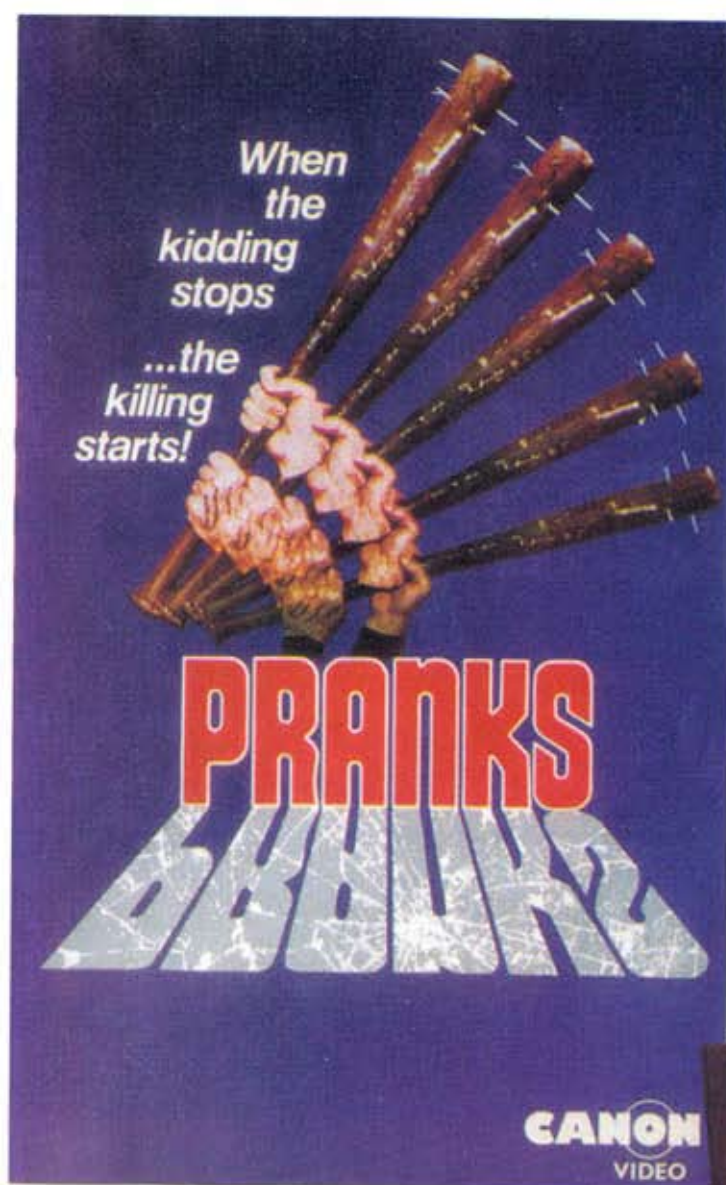
possession

An enormous number of symbols, both sexual and religious, give some meaning to this bizarre story of an estranged woman (Adjani) who gives birth to a full-grown man, an exact replica of her husband, after making love to a slimy octopus-like monster. Neill has been away on special assignment for years and comes home to find his wife, Adjani, acting strangely. She admits to having a lover, ex-flower child Bennett, so Neill has detectives follow her. One detective is killed by Adjani, the other by the multi-tentacled monster. Neill thinks his wife has gone potty. But then he catches her in bed with the creature and thinks he'd better get a divorce. Good special effects help make this odd yarn believable, but the themes, camera angles and symbolism were handled much better by Roman Polanski in *Rosemary's Baby*. Among the yukky gore scenes are a bit where Adjani slices into her own neck with an electric carving knife, and of course her body-slamming, bile-spitting miscarriage on the Metro takes some beating! Do the art house crowd watch video nasties? Just ask David Lynch fans...

DVD Availability

This was removed from the Nasties list in 1999 when it was granted a BBFC 18 uncut - hardly surprising really, since it's more an arthouse pic than anything else. There is a rumour of a 5-minute cut to the octopus baby miscarriage on the Metro, but this appears to be false, as the old VTC version is the same as the Dutch and French video releases as well as cinema prints. The director himself has stated that the birth scene does not last 10 minutes. A fair few scenes were cut during editing one of which clarifies what happens to Anna (Isabelle Adjani). To the director's knowledge, none of these have ever made it to any release of the film.

The way to go with this one is to pick up Anchor Bay's region free US disc, which gives you an absolutely stunning transfer of the film in 1.66:1 anamorphic. It's in English and runs longer than any other version, with a commentary by the director, a trailer, and extensive cast and crew biographies. Well worth picking up if you want to appreciate this very weird movie as its director intended.



pranks

A group of students foolishly volunteer to spend their Christmas holidays clearing a derelict building of its furniture, and are menaced by a psychotic killer in this early effort from the team who brought us *The Power* and *The Kindred* (and never had the decency to apologise). It's basically the sort of movie that gives slasher pictures a bad name. Kids wander in and out of darkened rooms even though they know that there's likely to be a guy with a straight razor waiting behind the door. Spiked clubs are driven into eyes, necks are garroted, folks are run over and reduced to limbless torsos, and human heads turn up in the Irish stew (no doubt substantially increasing the risk of BSE infection). There's plenty going on, then, but the budget is too low for the gore to be effective, and the level of characterisation is nil. On top of that, the downbeat ending really stinks! An all-round loser.

DVD Availability

This VPD release was submitted to the BBFC as soon as the new VRA laws came into effect. 10 seconds were trimmed and it was given a certificate and removed from the list. Nowadays it might even get through with a 15 if anybody could be bothered to resubmit. Instead, our old pals at VIPCO saved themselves the, er, classification fee, and just put out the original tape on disc in an atrocious-looking 4:3 transfer that you'll find kicking around bargain bins for around a fiver should you be interested. What pranksters, eh? If you're absolutely desperate to see the missing 10 secs of gore (from a scalping) then you'll have to purchase the NTSC tape from the States - where it's available under the film's alternate title of *The Dorm That Dripped Blood*.

prisoner of the cannibal god

New Guinea is perhaps the last region on earth which contains immense unexplored areas" intones the prologue of this tepid slice of jungle hokum. We find that hard to believe, what with all those Italian film crews poking around down there!

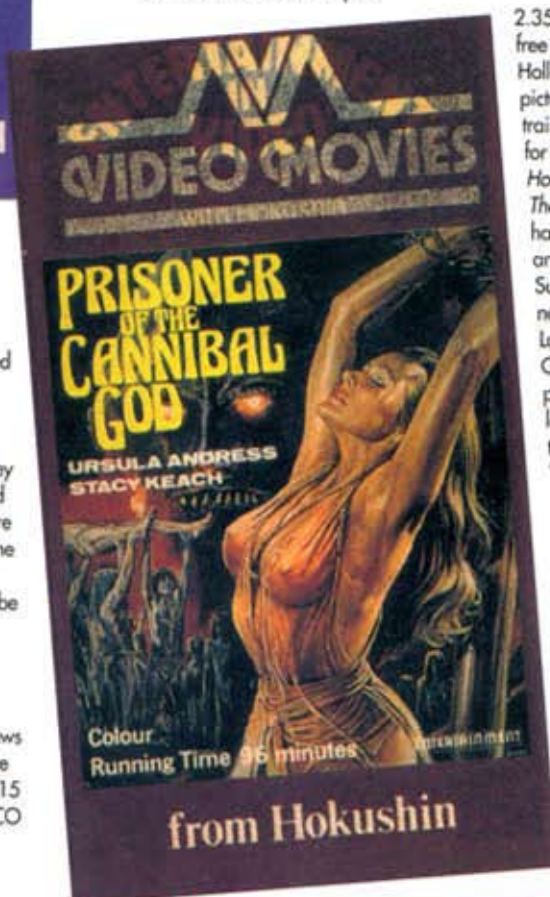
One of the most mediocre cannibal films on the market, this one has Cassinelli and Andress playing a brother and sister who trek through uncharted New Guinea, ostensibly in search of Andress's missing hubby, but actually looking for valuable uranium deposits. What they find instead is a lost tribe of cannibals - called The Pooka - who worship Ursula's hubby's decomposed remains! They also meet up with Stacy Keach, a crashed pilot who has been forced to scarf human flesh and now finds it impossible to act convincingly without rolling his eyeballs around in his head. Andress fans will find the journey worthwhile because they get to see their heroine wearing some natty leather safari gear. In another scene Ursula is stripped naked by the panting natives and painted with the sludgy remains of her old man - shades of *Zombie Creeping Flesh*. There's the usual round of depressing animal cruelty, with a lizard being sliced open to the accompaniment of flaming bongos, and a turtle thrown into the jaws of a crocodile in a very one-sided "life or death struggle." The special effects are not very well done, leaving this time waster with only good camerawork to recommend it.

DVD Availability

There are plenty of DVD versions of this available, some under the alternate title of *Mountain Of The Cannibal God* - such as Anchor Bay's definitive region free release. This gives you the best-looking (fully uncut) version of the movie in 2.35:1 anamorphic NTSC and English Dolby Digital 1.0 format. It also restores the film's explicit castration sequence, not seen in many other versions. Extras include *Legacy Of The Cannibal God*, an interview with director Sergio Martino, plus a poster and still gallery, theatrical trailer, and cast and crew biographies.

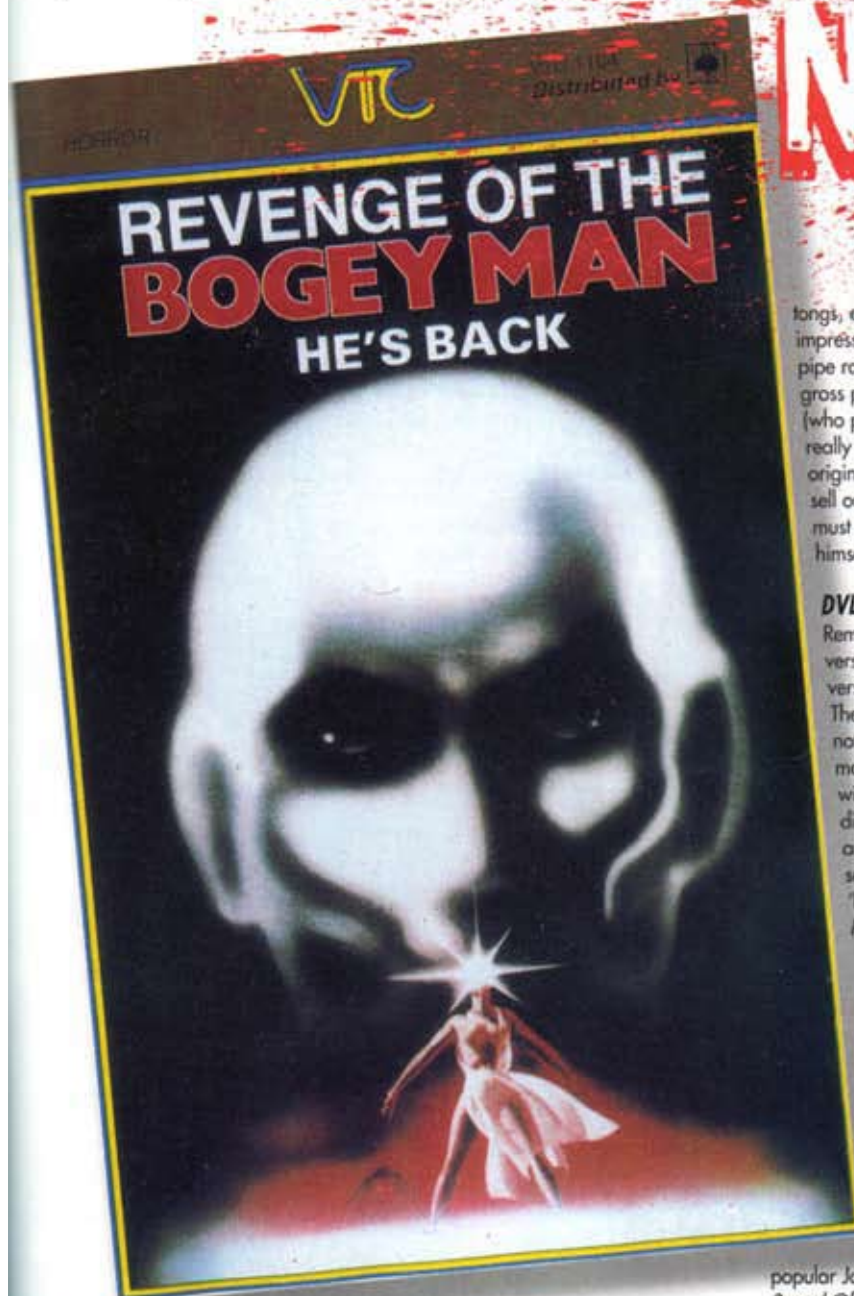
For the record, other releases include another region free US disc from Diamond in non-anamorphic

2.35:1 (no extras), a region free disc from EC in Holland that contains picture galleries and a trailer, plus bonus trailers for *Blade In The Dark* and *House On The Edge Of The Park*. This one also has a collectable booklet and Dutch and English Subtitles. It's in 2.35:1 non-anamorphic NTSC. Laser Paradise in Germany also have a pretty good disc with loads of trailers. As for the UK disc from VIPCO, would you be surprised to learn that it's missing some two and a half minutes of animal cruelty? Our friends at the ever-reliable VIPCO put this out as both a non-anamorphic 2.35:1 release and lousy-looking fullscreen. So you know what to do about that one...



Next month: *The Bogeyman* is back for revenge, and *The Shogun Assassin* gets out of his pram to massacre rather a lot of people. Business as usual...

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revenge of the bogey man

The man in the mirror is back in a cheeky sequel that is mainly made up of a very large amount of stock footage from the original movie (all the murder scenes, in fact, hence its similar inclusion on the DPP list). Suzanna Love (the director's wife) also returns as the woman haunted by the spirit inhabiting a broken shard of mirror. The action is set six months on, with a Hollywood director (rather appropriately played by Lommel) wanting to make a film out of Love's horrific experiences. Obviously annoyed that he's not on a percentage of the gross, the Bogey Man decides to cause carnage at a party thrown by the filmmakers, bumping off the revellers with bottle openers, barbecue

return of the VIDEO NASTIES!

tongs, electric toothbrushes and garden shears. The most impressively sick slaughter involves a gal having a car exhaust pipe rammed into her mouth and choking on its emissions in a gross parody of fellatio. It seems that art-house director Lommel (who previously worked with Fassbinder and Andy Warhol) didn't really want to make this picture, but when the backers of the original thrust half a million dollars in his hands he decided to sell out quick. It's obvious from those excessive flashbacks that he must have been able to save quite a chunk of that change for himself.

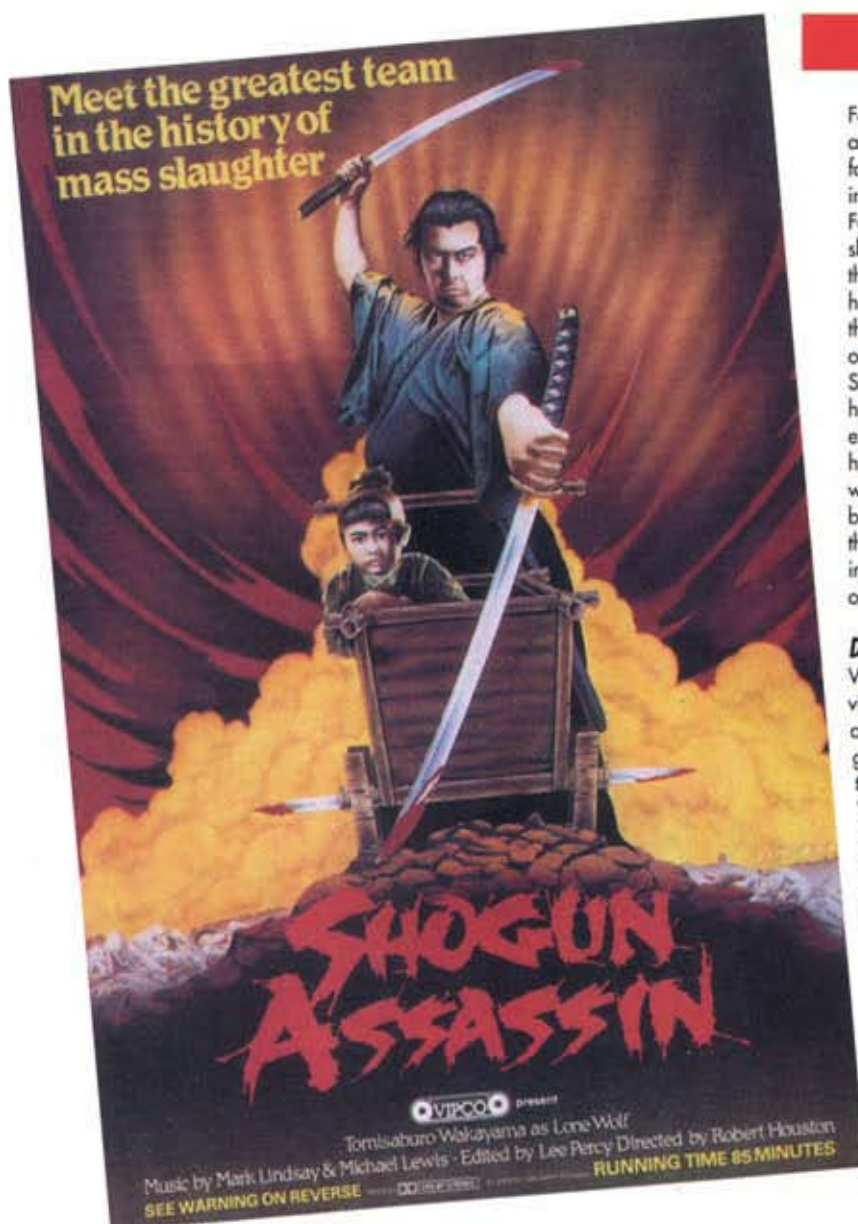
DVD Availability

Removed from the DPP list but never re-released in its original version, this was passed uncut in 2003, but it's in a re-edited version that includes even more footage from *The Bogey Man*. The fact is, the DVD of *Boogey Man 2* released by Image is not the same as the *Revenge Of The Boogey Man* tape that made the Nasties list. It's really just the original *Boogey Man* with some scenes cut and new ones added. We also get the director babbling on between scenes in an odd fashion. There are also 'bonus clips' from never-finished *Boogey Man* sequels. The image is good quality, but frankly this so-called 'Director's Cut' is just a waste of time. Mind you, so is *Revenge Of The Boogey Man* as a whole.

shogun assassin

This really violent Japanese adventure is surprisingly good. It focuses on Wakayama, an "official decapitator" running around the country with his young son in tow (in a wooden pram!) seeking revenge on the men who killed his wife. The film is narrated by the man's child, making this a very weird sort of comic adventure. *Shogun*

Assassin was actually edited down from two films in the popular Japanese Lone Wolf series: *Baby Cart At River Styx* and *Sword Of Vengeance* - both of which were based on a comic book. The American dubbing is quite good, using the minimum amount of dialogue to maximum effect. One of the voices is dubbed by comedienne Sandra Bernhard, and the music score was written by Mark Lindsay, formerly of the popular 60s rock group *Paul Revere And The Raiders*. Superbly edited from stylishly shot material, this has become a ballet of nearly continuous battles - a blood red haze of swordplay with severed body parts flying and arteries spewing, gushing and spraying the camera lens. As the samurai, Tomisaburo Wakayama is grizzled and portly, not at all your usual martial arts hero, and the constant presence of his infant son at the bloodletting adds a note of surrealism that elevates this far above the standard fare. Often quite funny and always bizarre, this is an absolutely unique martial arts movie that did not deserve to be singled out as a nasty!



DVD Availability

This one originally had a mere 2 seconds of cuts for both cinema and video. The 18-cert VIPCO release is missing a short sequence early on, just before the initial decapitation. In the US version, The Shogun lowers his head to reveal the baby wearing a circular mirror like a headlamp around his head (he is carrying the baby piggy-back), the mirror blinds his enemy allowing the Shogun to whack his head off. This short sequence appears to have been cut out of the VIPCO release. Also the scene on the boat with the eye gouging is there in both versions, but is a second or so shorter in the Vipco release. VIPCO's UK version has a theatrical trailer, a photo gallery and is in 2.35:1 non-anamorphic PAL and English Dolby Digital 2.0 mono. There's also a R2 Germany version from Laser Paradise. This has pretty much the same specs, so take your choice.

Shogun Assassin is actually a combination of two films, *Sword Of Vengeance* and *Baby Cart At The River Styx*. Robert Houston rewrote the dialogue in English, re-edited the films together, and added a new electronic score (by Mark Lindsay). The first ten minutes is the Lone Wolf and Cub origin sequences from *Sword Of Vengeance*.

Then the part with the female Ninja team and the Masters of Death are lifted from *Baby Cart*.

the slayer

Four holidaymakers on a small island off the coast of Georgia run around the island looking for their companions before becoming dinner for an unseen monster. This creature seems to be summoned up from the imagination of one of the group (a bit like the Monster From The Id in *Forbidden Planet*). The deadly dreamer is played by Sarah Kendall, and she's a painter who had a recurrent childhood nightmare about being throttled by a character called "The Slayer." Whenever she goes to sleep her friends die horribly, by getting fishing hooks in the throat or having their heads slammed in doors. Thus the film gets a lot of tension out of our heroine's efforts to stay awake - think *Invasion Of The Body Snatchers*. She drinks gallons of coffee, chain-smokes and even burns herself with cigarettes, but it's all no good in the end. The gore is very effective: the monster whacks a fisherman on the head with an oar, and his torn scalp lands in his bait bucket. In another gross moment a woman has a pitchfork shoved through her back and it exits through her breasts. The makeup for the hideous monster is also quite effective until the end, when the illusion is spoiled by one close-up too many. This imaginative low-budget shocker is stylishly directed and better than most of its kind. There's even a pretty good twist in the tail.

DVD Availability

When VIPCO first put this one in during the 1990s it was granted an 18 video certificate with just 14 seconds of cuts. It was resubmitted in 2001 and passed uncut. The R2 VIPCO disc has a theatrical trailer, a photo gallery, and is presented in 4:3 non-anamorphic PAL in a wishy-washy transfer that has obviously been taken from the same tape master VIPCO used to put together their original VHS. There is reputed to be a German release from Laser Paradise but this is elusive and therefore no specs are available. The VIPCO disc has been deleted for a while now, but copies are fairly easy to find. The film has never been released on disc in the States, but NTSC tapes are available under the title of *Nightmare Reunion*.



Next month: The people who made *Snuff* were never heard from again - but only because they were such crap actors...

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return of the

VIDEO NASTIES!

VS SNUFF

SNUFF — the movie they said no producer could make, no distributor would release, and no audience could stomach. This is the one and only original legendary atrocity shot by Monarch Films in South America and New York, where human life is cheap! The mystery and controversy surrounding this vicious and violent venture remains clouded to this day. Many of the actors and actresses who dedicated their lives to making this film were never seen or heard from again.

SNUFF is the film that went too far — an overwhelming assault on the senses that delves into a degree of delirium deeper than any ever achieved before.

SNUFF contains scenes of sadism, bondage, bloodshed and mutilation too real to be simulated, too shocking to be ignored. Beautiful actresses, satanic slaves, bestial initiations, and gruesome gore beyond belief caused this picture to be banned. Are the killings in this film real? You be the judge!

THE ORIGINAL LEGENDARY ATROCITY
SHOT AND BANNED IN NEW YORK



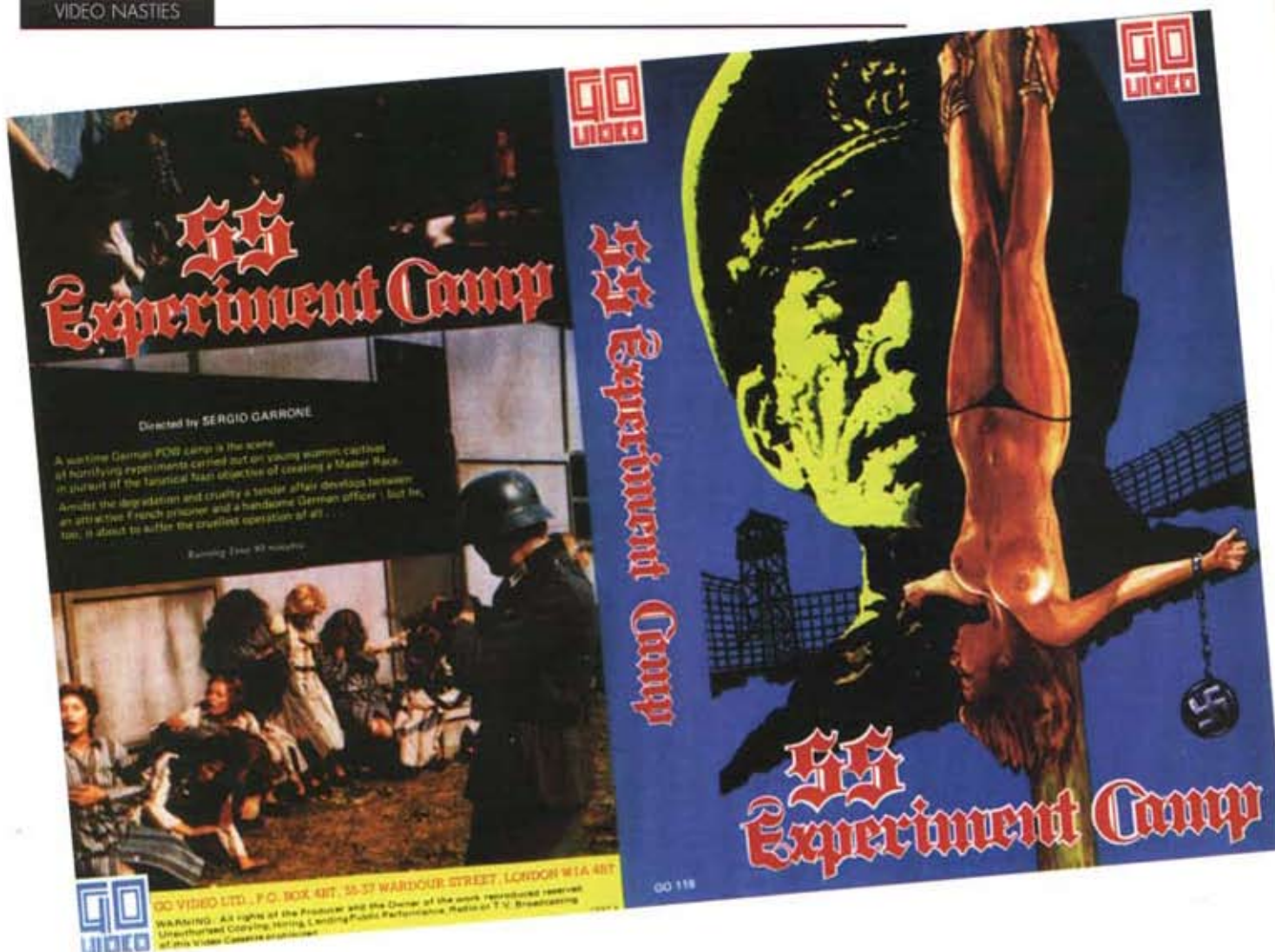
THE ACTORS AND ACTRESSES WHO DEDICATED
THEIR LIVES TO MAKING THIS FILM WERE
NEVER SEEN OR HEARD FROM AGAIN.

RUNNING TIME 82 MINUTES

snuff

This miserable little exploitation movie about a Manson-style gang who massacre a pregnant actress and her friends was originally shot as *The Slaughter* and sat on the shelf for some time before an enterprising producer (Allen Shockerton) revived it with a fake ending. Then it became a "snuff" film, with a four minute sequence in which a woman was brutally murdered "on camera." Her fingers are cut off and then she is disembowelled, but this is all so patently phoney that the only people who swallowed it were those too squeamish to sit through the picture in the first place. Billed as a "legendary atrocity," *Snuff* does indeed live up to this description. It's quite simply one of the worst films you are ever likely to see (or not to see, considering its fate). The plot is something to do with a Manson-style gang led by a character who calls himself Sa-tan and speaks like he has a permanent echo chamber round his head. He leads an army of cycle sluts who are so ugly you need to be 18 to look at them. The plot plods along in a

confused and boring fashion until the last five minutes, where we suddenly get to see the crew and cameraman lounging around the set. One of the crew suggests to an actress that they "go over to the bed and turn each other on." She looks dubious about the idea - "What, with all these people here?" But after accepting that "they'll be gone in a minute," she gets into a heavy petting session with the crew member. When she suddenly spots the camera and starts protesting about this kinky act of voyeurism, the jovial crew member lops off one of her plastic fingers and pulls a length of sheep offal from out of her jumper. "Let's get out of here!" urges one of the culprits, and most viewers will be right behind him. The ultimate joke is that this extremely pathetic little film became one of the most banned titles in the UK. Ironically, co-director Michael Findlay was killed shortly afterwards when a helicopter crashed on top of the Pan-Am building and decapitated him. Nobody was there to film it. As for the existence of real-life snuff



movies, well, we all know that's a myth concocted by the sensation-hungry tabloids. After all, if you murdered someone, would you want to advertise the fact by putting the deed on celluloid?

DVD Availability

Anyone who actually sat down to watch this controversial title would quickly realise the effects are too poor for it to be convincing as a genuine Snuff flick. However, when Bill Lustig's Blue Underground released it on DVD in 2003 it's rumoured he was contacted and questioned by the FBI about it. That's his excuse for putting the movie out in a bog standard 4:3 non-anamorphic NTSC version with no extras whatsoever. Even the credits were left off the sleeve, which was like a plain brown paper bag! Limited to 10,000 copies, it seems that Blue Underground were aiming to give this release a 'bootleg' feel. The region free US release is the only one so far, but we hear that Blue Underground have submitted *Snuff* to the BBFC and been given an 18 certificate with no cuts. My, my... how times have changed!

ss experiment camp

The title might say it all, but it was the cover of *SS Experiment Camp* that first attracted PC Plod to the case. A topless girl crucified upside-down leapt out at hapless consumers from the shelves as the star of a piece of lurid artwork that was tacky even by Go Video standards (and no-one came tackier, believe me!). Some morally concerned video magazines insisted that a black bra be painted over the exposed breasts on the full page ads they ran. It made all the difference, I'm sure.... The plot of the film is basic, to say the least. Nasty Nazis are rounding up the local female Jews for use in the camp of the title. They are routinely tortured, molested and raped by the doctors, guards, and just about anybody else who happens to wander along. Despite this, a 'tender affair' develops between one German officer and a French prisoner. But, to quote the sleeve once again, "He too is about to suffer the cruellest operation of all..." And how! It seems that the camp commandant is in the market for a new pair of testicles, and I'm sure you can guess who the unlucky donor

is. Amazingly, our hero doesn't realise that he has been surgically emasculated (in an eye-watering bit of real-life medical footage) until he's in mid-clinch with his girl. His subsequent confrontation with the commandant offers one of the great moments in Trash Cinema, with the immortal line of dialogue: "You bastard! What have you done with my balls?" Most of the slew of Nazi camp films that appeared in the mid-70s were nothing more than women-in-prison exploiters dressed up in WW2 costumes to cash in on the success of *The Night Porter* and *Salon Kitty*, and *SS Experiment Camp* is no different. Not as slick and glossy as *Gestapo's Last Orgy* or *Salon Kitty*, or as outrageously camp as *Ilsa, She Wolf Of The SS*, or as deliriously...er...personal as *Love Camp 7*, it is merely a passable exercise in tasteless sleaze - nothing more, nothing less.

DVD Availability

This notorious Nasty remains banned in the UK and the situation isn't likely to change in the near future. Concentration camp exploitationers such as this and the *Ilsa* series (never submitted, but certs for the list if they had been) are best bought from Japan, where they don't seem remotely upset about these things. There was rumoured to be a Special Edition disc of this on the way from Italy, but meanwhile fans of this sort of thing will have to be content with a newly released bog standard 1.33:1 full frame version just released on the obscure 'Substance' label. This film-only disc looks like it might have been mastered from a VHS tape, so you have been warned...



Next month: The nastiness continues with Dario Argento's *Tenebrae*, *Terror Eyes* and that DIY favourite, *The Toolbox Murders*...

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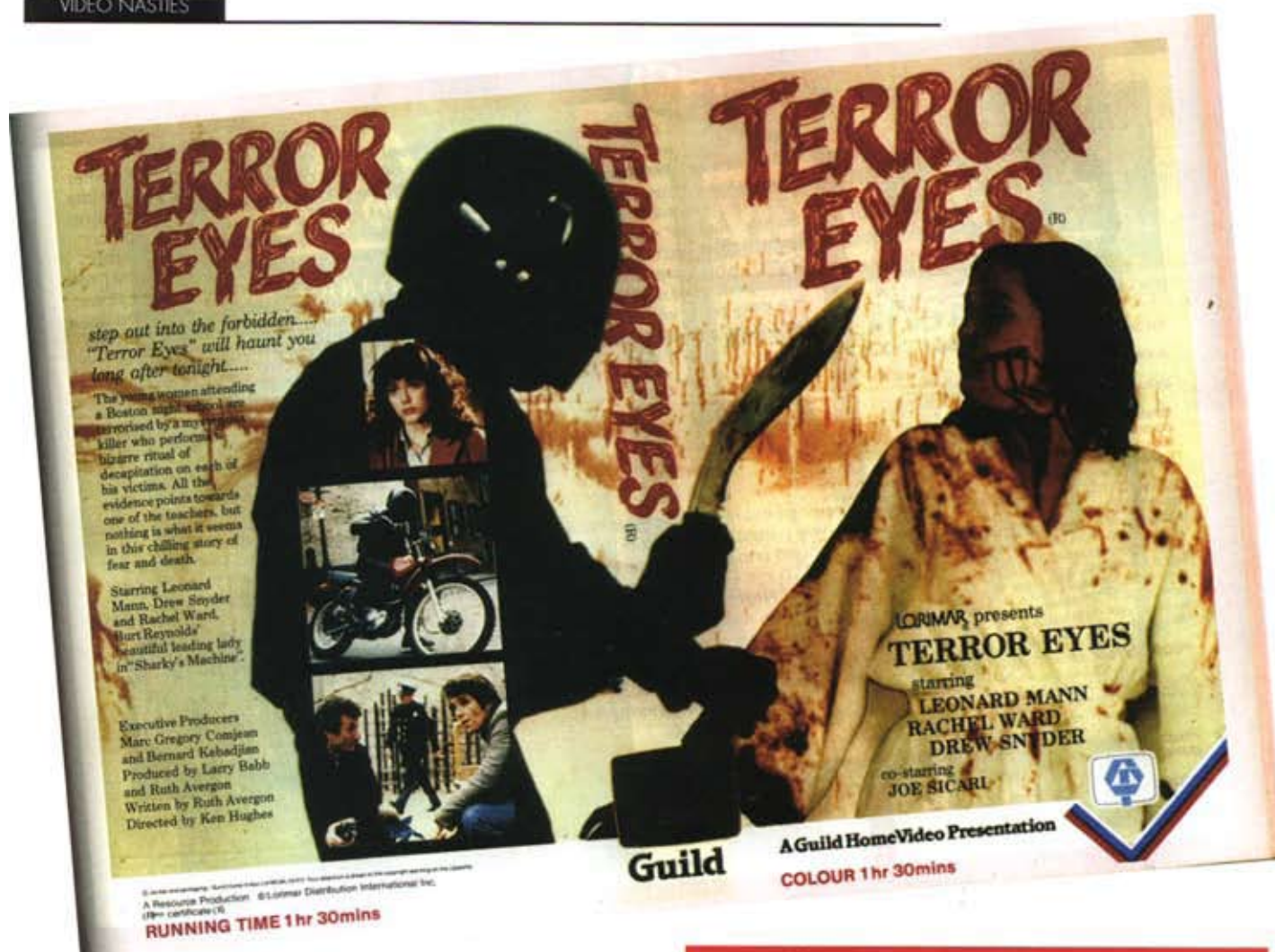
tenebrae

Though not one of Dario Argento's best movies, this convoluted psychothriller still offers a number of stylish moments and some impressive gore sequences. Tony Franciosa is an American writer of detective stories who visits Rome on a promotional tour and finds himself caught up in a series of murders of young women. It seems the killer is imitating the slayings in Franciosa's most recent novel. The question is, is it Franciosa himself, gone completely off his rocker from writing those penny dreadfuls? The plot is somewhat more coherent than we've come to expect of Dario (though what the heck are those kinky S&M flashbacks all about?), and there's a spectacular dismemberment-by-axe at the climax. The best sequence demonstrates Argento's technical virtuosity: the camera prowls an apartment house where a murder is about to be committed, gliding over the rooftops and into an open window like a silent accomplice. Classic stuff in comparison with most of the other movies on the nasties list.

DVD Availability

When first re-released in the UK by Nouveaux Pictures, *Tenebrae* was originally shorn of about 5 seconds in the arm-chopping scene, which lost the shot of the victim holding the stump whilst it sprayed blood between her fingers.

Since then it has been released uncut in Japan on Laserdisc and Australia on video (Palace). It's also currently available uncut on US and UK DVD from Anchor Bay. These are the best versions, containing an audio commentary by director Dario Argento, musician Claudio Simonetti, and journalist Loris Curci. There are also cast and crew filmographies and biographies, a behind the scenes featurette, scenes showing Argento setting up the ambitious crane shot which is a highlight of the movie, and alternate end music credits - plus a theatrical trailer. The disc is presented in 1.85:1 non-anamorphic NTSC/PAL and English Dolby Digital 5.1.



Compleatists may like to note that the Anchor Bay release is missing 10 seconds of footage due to print damage. According to Bill Lustig who supervised the transfer, a tiny bit of dialogue is missing at the end of the scene where Daria Nicolodi and Anthony Franciosa enter his hotel room. This version is also missing a quick insert shot of a stab, which has somehow been 'misplaced.'

terror eyes

Originally known as *Night School*, this lacklustre slice 'n' dice opus comes from the same British director who gave us *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*! It tells the story of a maniac killer (in a motorcycle helmet) who is going around decapitating students at a Boston college, apparently imitating some head-hunting New Guinea ritual. Suspicion falls on a professor who is known to have had affairs with several of the students, but the "surprise" ending isn't that hard to guess. The dialogue is unintentionally funny ("You know, I think you're dealing with a psychotic killer here" muses anthropology lecturer Drew Snyder, who is presumably majoring in *The Bleeding Obvious*), and severed heads turn up in a pool and a pot of stew. It's quite slickly made, and Rachel Ward looks great in the shower in a kinky scene where her boyfriend rubs red paint all over her. Shame she can't act as well as she decorates, but I guess you can't have everything.

DVD Availability

When this movie was resubmitted to the BBFC by Guild after the Video Recordings Act, it was passed with 1 minute 14 secs of cuts. How times have changed though, because if put in again now it would almost certainly be passed uncut, and maybe even with a 15 certificate! Warner in the US put the movie out on tape in 1996 under its American title of *Night School*, but the film remains hard to find here. There are reports that you can get a nice quality widescreen DVD-R bootleg from a UK source, but these remain unconfirmed. Meanwhile, if you're searching for a copy of this, be sure not to get it muddled up with another *Terror Eyes*, a 1988 straight-to-video horror flick starring B-movie scream queen Vivian Schilling.

the toolbox murders

Originally shown at UK cinemas on a double-bill with *Zombie Flesh-Eaters*, this trashy gore opus stars Cameron Mitchell, the guy who played 'Buck' in *The High Chapparral* as a deranged building superintendent who kills off his victims with an array of tools (hammer, drill, screwdriver and nail-gun), all the while singing, 'Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child.' This is something to do with him getting revenge for the death of his daughter, but under Dennis Donnelly's suspenseless direction the film just becomes a pointless catalogue of cruelty. It's worth seeing for Mitchell's crazed performance (his character wears a ski mask long before Jason adopted it), and some fairly strong gore murders. Look for porn star Kelly Nichols as the gal who gets the nail-gun treatment. The cast also features Anita Corseaut of *The Blob*. It's supposedly based on a true story. Yeah, right...

DVD Availability

This was rescued from the Video Nasties list when re-released in the same heavily cut version that played UK cinemas. VIPCO put out the butchered version in the UK in non-anamorphic fullscreen with trailers and a paltry stills gallery. But then along came Bill Lustig's Blue Underground and did the film proud with a superb Special Edition region free NTSC disc. The extras include an audio commentary with producer Tony Didio, cinematographer Gary Graver and actress Pamelyn Ferdin. Then there's 'I Got Nailed In The Toolbox Murders' - a great interview with actress Marianne Walter (aka porn star Kelly Nichols). Lots of other goodies here too. The US disc has a splendid anamorphic widescreen transfer and is uncut, while the UK disc is missing 1 minute 46 secs of violence and gore. Do you really need time to think it over? Tobe Hooper's enjoyable remake is also now available from Anchor Bay UK.



Next month: We go off our rockers with *Unhinged*, and things get hairy, and pretty abominable too with *The Werewolf And The Yeti*.

They were the most reviled movies of the video age, but now some of them are coming back on disc! In this series of regular columns, DVD World reviews all of the original banned titles - and brings you an update on their current DVD availability!

return of the

VIDEO NASTIES!



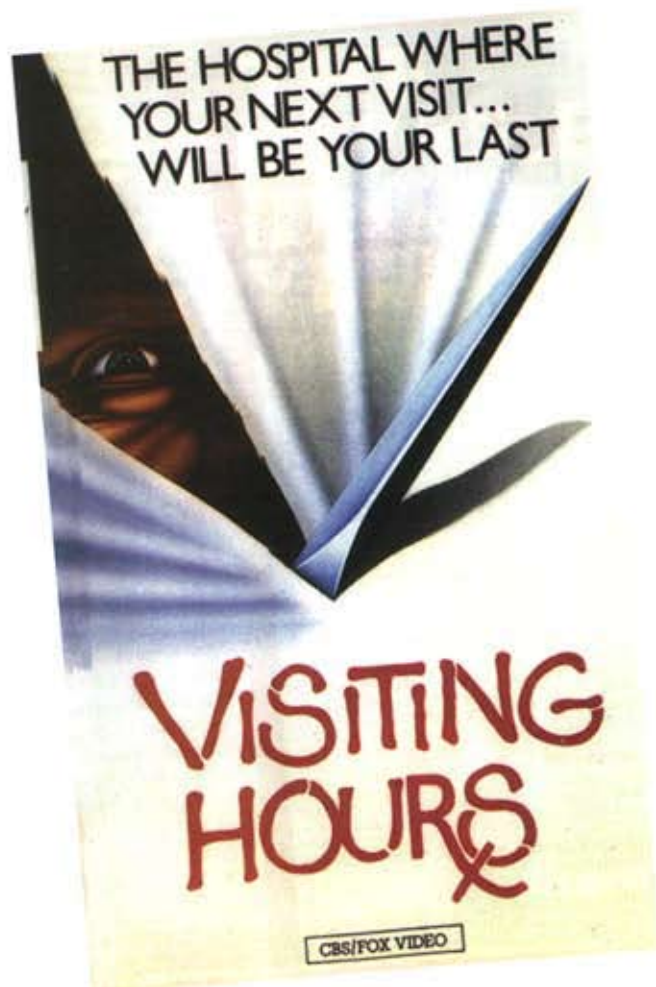
unhinged

Stop me if you've heard this one before: three college gals on a vacation crack up their car in the wilds of Oregon and end up in a house inhabited by a man-hating matriarch, her persecuted daughter and half-witted son. One sleeping beauty has a hatchet buried in her head. Another character has his brains graphically blown out. And in the Texas Chainsaw type climax the last remaining survivor is pursued into a room full of bottled eyeballs, strewn-about intestines and severed limbs. She is then slowly hacked to death, proving once and for all that it's always best to call out the AA on these occasions. The gore effects are pretty effective, particularly a nasty scythe-in-the-stomach sequence. But the acting, photography and direction call to mind the ineptitude of Andy Milligan flicks.

DVD Availability

This forgettable low-budget loser of a horror flick was passed with an X certificate for exhibition at the cinema, with cuts. What the paying

punters made of it is anybody's guess. It was later removed from the DPP list, but has never been re-released on video in the UK, or on DVD for that matter. We can probably be grateful for that because it's one of the weakest of the Nasties. The movie is only currently available as a cheapie US disc (legal, not DVD-R) in two separate incarnations. One's from a company called Ventura Distribution. The disc is a bog-standard fullscreen edition with not even a trailer as an extra. I've not seen a copy, but I hear the quality is fairly mediocre. Mind you, the VHS tape looked pretty shoddy as I recall. There's another disc out there from Indie DVD. The full screen picture is grainy and not particularly sharp. Colour is generally OK but skin tones waver a bit. It doesn't look terrible though and there is a fair amount of detail in dark scenes. The mono sound is passable with clear dialogue but little else. Extras are an interview with director Don Gronquist and star Janet Penner from an American daytime TV show, trailers for other Indie DVD films, production stills and a comedy audio commentary by 'The Detractors.'



The sleeve doesn't have an official certificate but does carry a cross between the American and Australian R ratings. Weird. Completists should be able to track down a copy on the Internet for about a tenner, but you'd have to be a little bit, er, unhinged...

visiting hours

The only so-called video nasty to have been shown on terrestrial telly in the UK (and no, civilisation did not collapse in the wake of this), *Visiting Hours* is a fairly vicious slasher movie, shot in Canada, that borrows from the usual sources - namely *Halloween*, *Peeping Tom* and *Psycho*. Future heavyweight baddie Michael Ironside (*Total Recall*) is very good as a sleazy psycho who mutilates and murders innocent women, photographing their broken bodies afterwards. The dime store psychology of the piece informs us that it's because he was abused as a child by his swaggering white supremacist father that he now hates independent, successful women. After picking up biker babe Lenore Zann and slapping her around a little, Ironside develops a particular fixation on investigative reporter Lee Grant, who is a TV celebrity at the studio where he works as a cleaner. He breaks into Grant's house, but after failing in his attempt at killing her he loses his fury on the hospital where she has been taken to recover. The bedpan bloodbath continues until Grant, who proves to be a resourceful character, turns the tables on her attacker and washes him out of her hair with an acid facebath. The movie is actually very well made, with good performances and much more depth than usual in the dialogue and characterisations.

DVD Availability

Who would have thought that Captain Kirk would have made the DPP list! *Visiting Hours* was originally passed X at the cinema with cuts. It was re-released after further BBFC cuts by CBS/Fox. Then ITV accidentally broadcast the uncut version in 1989 and got rebuked by the ITC. Anyone who taped it then had a result! If you want to find the film nowadays then you are going to be spending a lot of your own visiting hours at car boot sales and Cash Converters. Even with the cult value of William Shatner

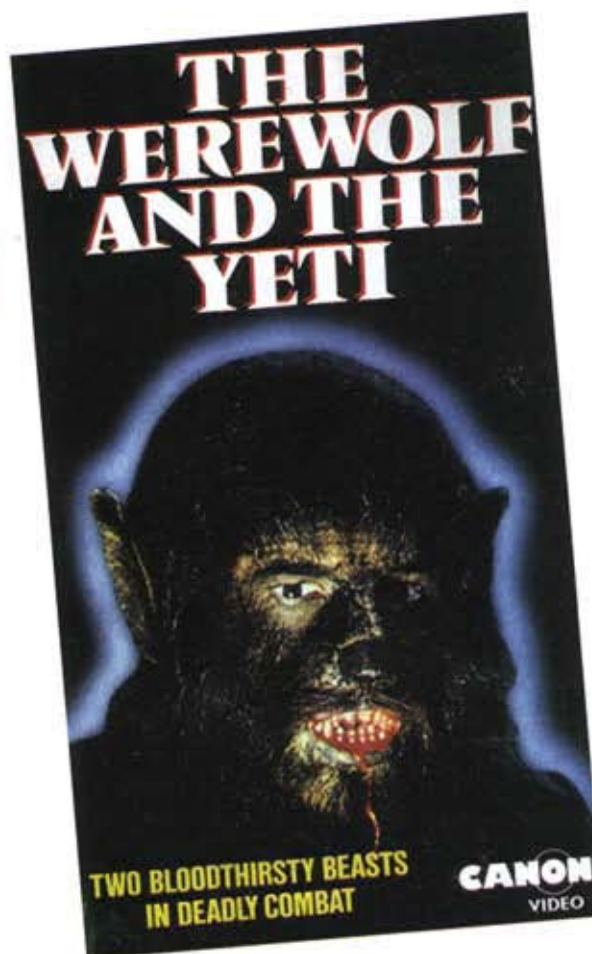
nobody has bothered to resurrect this boring and generally goreless slasher for a DVD release, and even the Fox VHS has long been out of print. Keep watching the TV schedules...

the werewolf and the yeti

Paul Naschy's eighth outing as the joke shop wolfman Waldemar Daninsky opens to stock footage of Westminster Bridge with, for some inexplicable reason, "Scotland The Brave" playing on the soundtrack! The we're off to a studio-bound Tibet, where Count Waldemar helps conduct a search for a monster who's even sillier than he. Naschy wanders off into the snow in search of the scriptwriters and is rescued by two scantily-clad cave-dwelling bimbos who are quite taken with our barrel-chested hero. "He will be a good companion and a passionate lover..." says one of the (obviously short-sighted) females. After a quick round of kinky nookie our hero discovers that the girls are cannibals, so he is obliged to whip out his stake and convert them into smoking skeletons. Meanwhile the rest of the low budget expedition has been captured by a horde of tartar roughnecks, whose evil leader has a fondness for skinning young girls alive - these scenes probably account for the film's nasty status. The Yeti turns up at the end to wrestle with Naschy, but the film itself is even more abominable.

DVD Availability

It's hard to believe, we know, but *The Werewolf And The Yeti* remains banned in the UK. Giving this a certificate would obviously bring about the downfall of society as we know it. Or something like that. Luckily we still have the Internet, and the advent of DVD-R. One American company calling themselves Monsterland Films have released a bootleg disc of the uncut movie under the title of *Night Of The Howling Beast*. I haven't seen it, but the distributors describe the quality of the fullscreen print used as being OK, which is not a good sign! Usually they tend to lavish superlatives on anything that's even barely watchable.

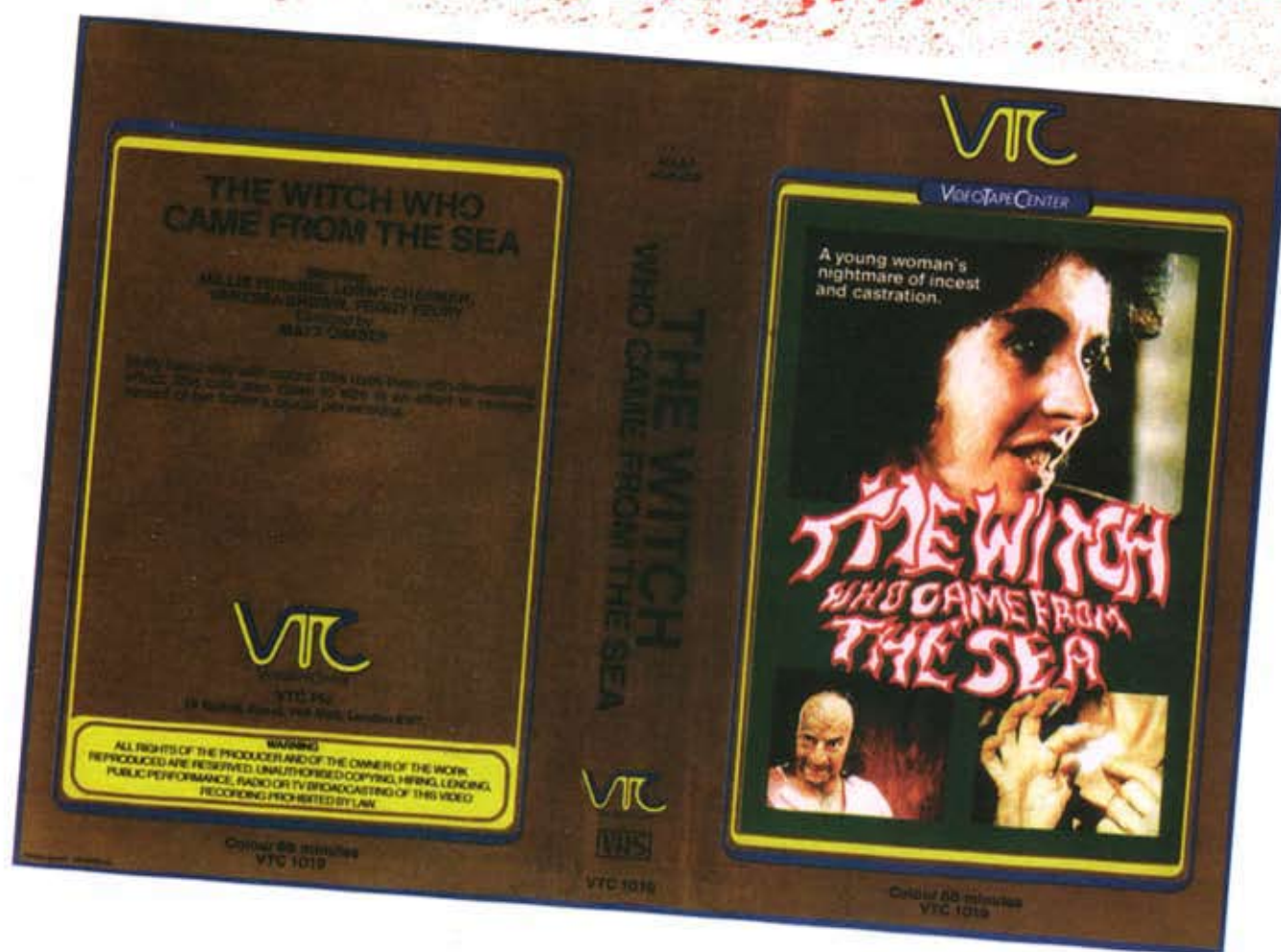


Next month: We meet *The Witch Who Came From The Sea* and spend some quality time in the showers with *Women Behind Bars*...

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return of the

VIDEO NASTIES!



the witch who came from the sea

A really bizarre movie from the writer of the cult youth movie *Wild In The Streets*, Robert Thom (who died in 1979). Thom was married to the star, Millie Perkins, and a certain amount of his screenplay seems to have been based on real-life incidents from his wife's childhood - some life she must have had! Perkins plays Molly, a troubled barmaid who has sex with a number of different men and then castrates them with a razor! In one scene she gets a mermaid tattooed on her chest by a completely tattooed man named Jack Dracula (played by Stan Ross of *Beyond The Valley Of The Dolls*). Director Matt Cimber was previously a porn movie director (which probably explains the 'guest appearance' of porno star Serena in a party scene).

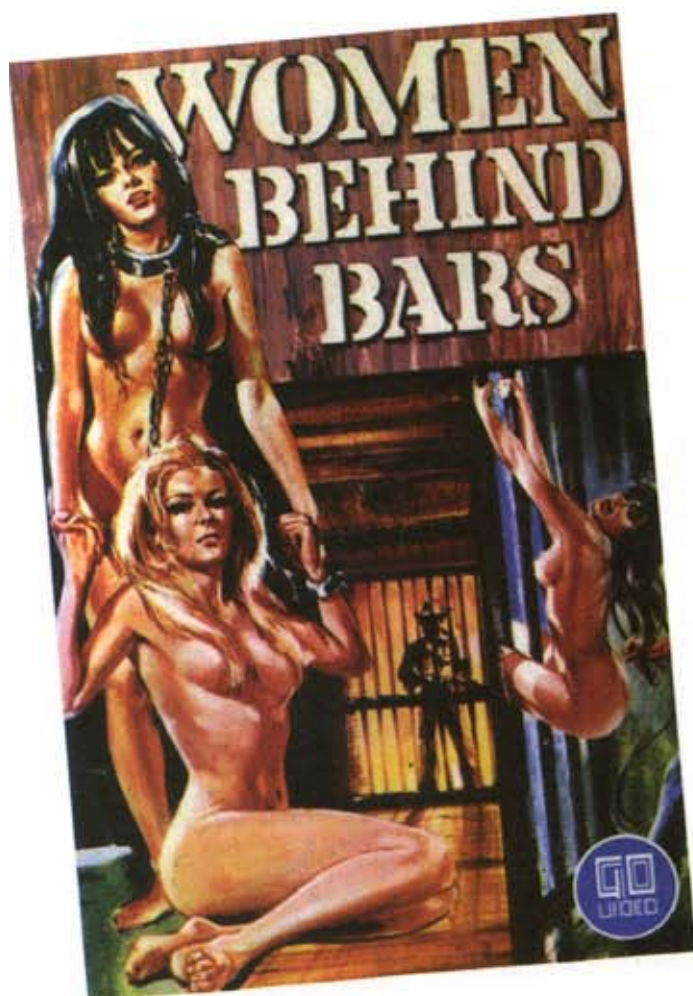
He was also married to Jayne Mansfield, and went on to direct some pretty lousy Pia Zadora flicks like *Butterfly*. This is surely his best film to date, featuring a terrific performance from Perkins, who starred in the Hollywood epic, *The Diary Of Anne Frank*, and some very graphic bloodletting - watch out for the bit where Perkins gets high, ties

up two musclebound football stars, and starts using her razor on them. As she runs around all naked and bloody, having a great time, it's easy to see why our prudish censor was offended!

Having said that, *Witch* is not your standard exploitation thriller. Too bizarre and slow-moving for popular taste, it has a definite art house feel about it.

DVD Availability

Another film that was quietly removed from the DPP list and disappeared into well-deserved) obscurity, this arthouse oddity has only recently resurfaced as a DVD Special Edition in the USA. Extras on the Synapse release include commentary by Millie Perkins, director Matt Cimber, and cinematographer Dean Cundey, plus interviews with the same. There are also two or three scenes which weren't on the VHS print. Picture quality is great, so if you want a copy this is obviously the way to go.



women behind bars

Another Jess Franco abomination, this inept *Women In Prison* saga is set in an extremely ramshackle jungle jail where most of the female inmates lounge around naked complaining about the heat: "It's so muggy, it's keeping me awake..." Sexual assignations with the warden help relieve the boredom for the cast, if not the viewer. The star of the show is Lina Romay, Franco's real-life missus, who has been banged up for murdering her faithless lover at a dive called *The Flamingo Club*. As part of her rehabilitation treatment she is hung naked in chains, whipped and electrocuted. She accepts all this with remarkable lack of animosity, saying "Why should I hold grudges against a little punishment?" But eventually Lina breaks out and marches the wicked warden off into the forest where he is shot dead by Franco himself - who obviously couldn't think of a better way to end the film. This is a typically poor effort with all the usual Franco trademarks: an excess of pointless zooms, awful canned music and scratchy travelogue stock footage - some of which has been "borrowed" from another Franco nasty, *Cannibal Terror*. "It is true we have committed murder," muses Jess at the end. "But who were the victims? People who deserved to die." The movie does not deserve its place in the nasties list though - a dustbin might have been more appropriate.

DVD Availability

This doesn't look too shocking these days, particularly in the light of some of the WIP flicks that are available on German labels. In fact *Women Behind Bars* is generally just your typical softcore romp with some sadistic treatment, such as electric shocks administered to the breasts and genitals of Lina Romay. Being married to Jess Franco, the gal has had to be a trooper! Anyway, the movie was eventually released from the Nasties list and packed off into obscurity. It has never been released on disc in the UK or America, but you can get an uncut European disc under the title of *Women Of Cellblock 9*. See this issue's *Cutting Comments* for further news on this one! The quality of the transfer is mediocre, and fans of Franco/Romay prison movie mayhem would be better advised to check out *Ilsa The Wicked Warden* (aka *Greta The Mad Butcher*) or some of the other productions put out as part of the Erwin C. Dietrich Collection.

XTRO

The pre-production title for this British-made sci-fi shocker was *Judas Goat*, the significance of which is not really worth pondering on. It's a dreary exercise in grotesque special effects which borrows elements of *Close Encounters*, *Alien*, and crossbreeds them with *Kramer Vs Kramer*! A father is kidnapped by aliens one day and returns to his family three years later in the form of a four-legged crablike monster - don't you hate it when that happens? He assaults a gorgeous blonde and the next day explodes from her womb, a full-grown human, later returning home to his wife to battle for custody of their son. The effects are impressive in places, but the plot is so ridiculous - and hard to follow - that the film very quickly becomes wearisome. Several unrelated sequels followed, none of which made the nasties list.

DVD Availability

There seems to be some confusion about whether or not this movie was ever an official Video Nasty. It was later removed from the list and passed uncut for video and cinema release. A slightly cut version of the film has shown on the Sky Cinema channels, while 2003 saw the release of a 2-disc box set by the Dutch-based Marketing Film label. This gives us two versions of the movie: a Director's Cut and the original version. Neither transfer (fullscreen) is particularly good quality. In fact the Sky print looked ten times better, and that was in widescreen too. But we get the full rape scene here and an alternate ending too. The disc has a 5.1 Dolby Digital soundtrack, but only for the Dutch release.

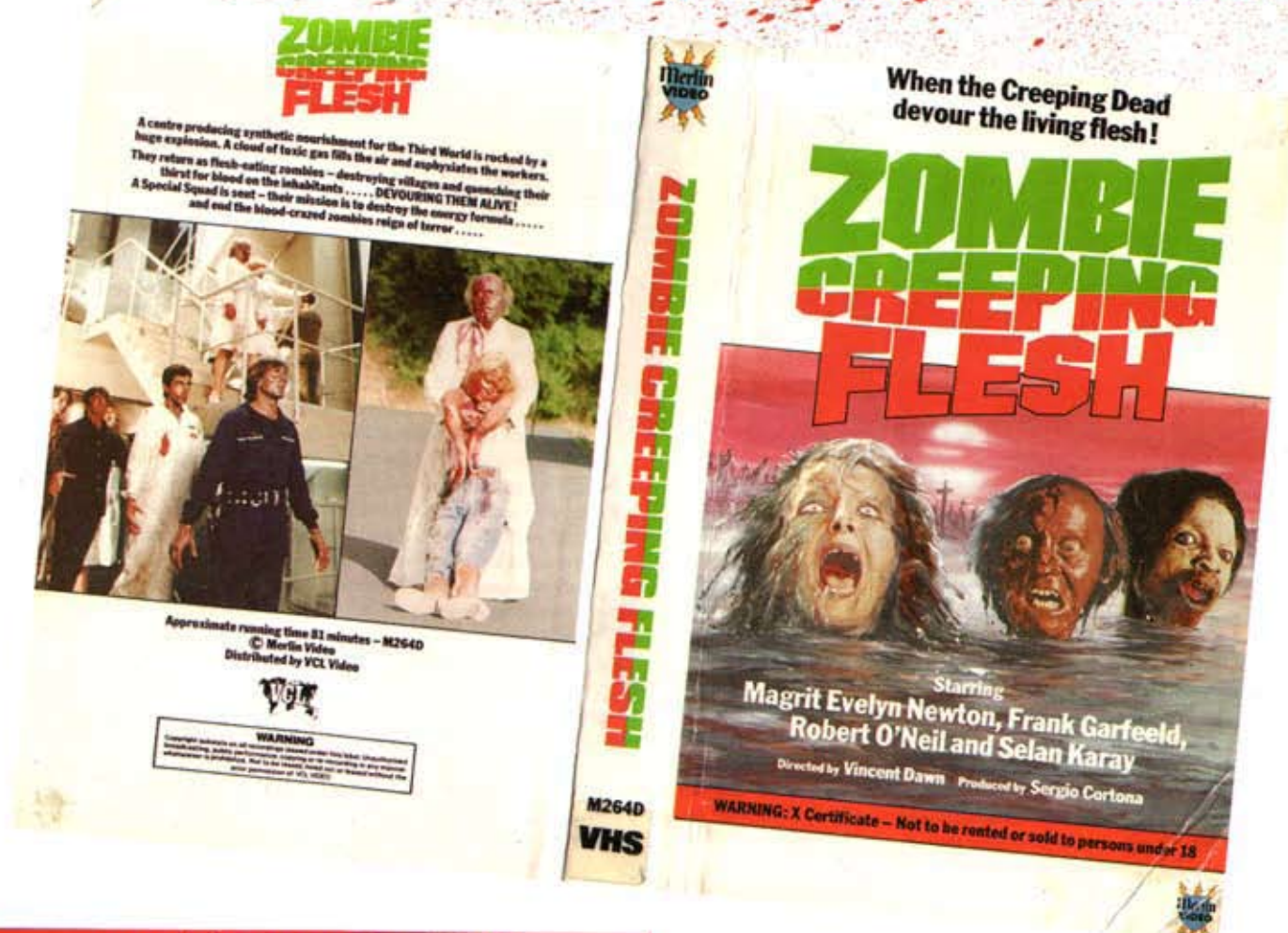


Next month: *Zombie Creeping Flesh* and *Zombie Flesh-Eaters* bring us to the end of the original DPP Nasties list... but there's more to come!

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return of the

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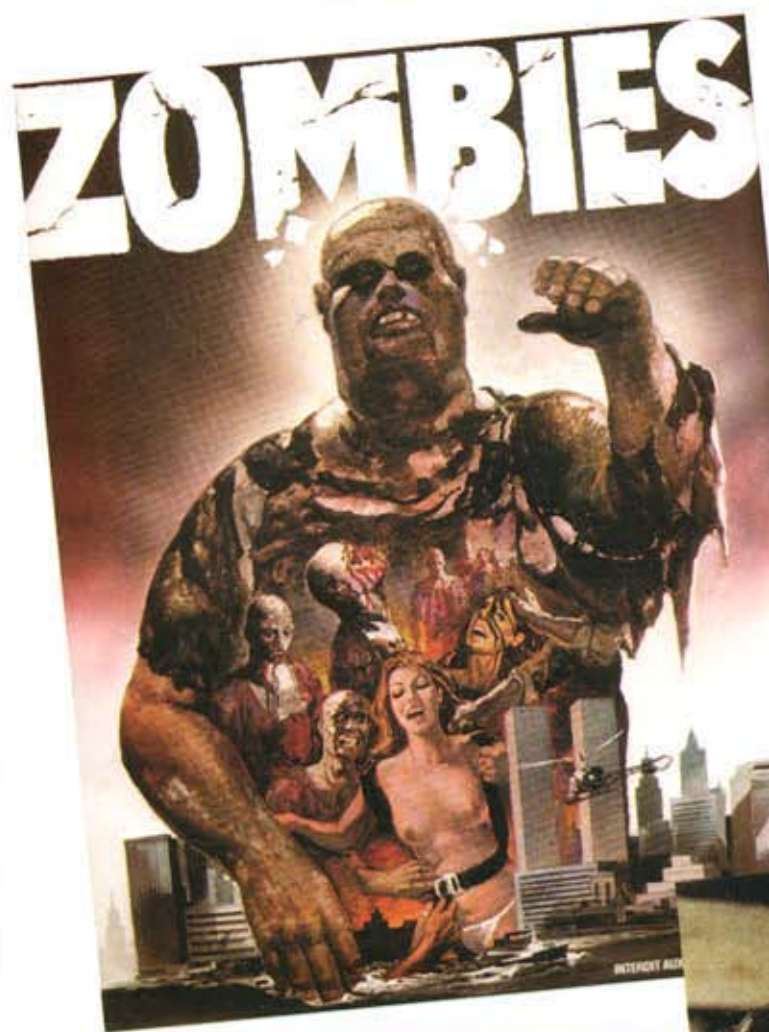
zombie creeping flesh

"What's eating you?" asks one jungle mercenary of another in this routine addition to the zombie/cannibal series. The answer is a motley assortment of grotty-looking living corpses that have been set in murderous motion by a gas explosion at a chemical plant deep in the jungles of New Guinea. Scientists have been beavering away trying to stem the tide of world hunger, but oh dear, it's all gone pear-shaped and instead they've created a bunch of murderous zombies with hefty appetites. A commando team has been sent in to clear up the chaos (a nod to Romero's *The Crazies*?) and manages to rescue some journalists - among them pretty Margit Evelyn Newton - before gradually being wiped out in a suitably grisly fashion. Though you could at a stretch consider this to be an allegory on what might happen if we let the Third World problems get out of hand (the ultimate success of the hunger project is that human beings become a recyclable commodity - mankind eats itself!). The film is bluntly predictable in its approach and the effects are not on a par with those seen in Fulci movies. Gore

highlight: the scene where Newton has her eyeballs pulled out through her mouth. A neat trick that goes down a bomb at zombie parties.

DVD Availability

This one was finally passed uncut in 2002 and there are plenty of good quality DVDs available. The best is Anchor Bay's version. It's region free and titled *Hell Of The Living Dead*. The film is presented in 1.85:1 anamorphic, NTSC. The extras include a nice featurette, *Hell Rats Of The Living Dead*, featuring a video interview with director Bruno Mattei - in Italian with English subtitles. We also get a poster and still gallery, a theatrical trailer, cast and crew biographies and filmographies, plus a collectable booklet. VIFCO's UK disc is also uncut, but is lacking extras (apart from a still gallery and trailers from *Cannibal Holocaust* and *Shogun Assassin*). The print used here isn't too good - cropped in the ratio of 1.66:1 non-anamorphic PAL. There's also a region 2 German disc from Laser Paradise.



zombie flesh-eaters

Fulci's celebrated gorefest borrows the rules of zombie-lore set up by George Romero ('Beat 'em or burn 'em - they go up pretty easy...') and grafts them on to an E.C. comic book storyline set on a remote tropical island in the West Indies. It is there that sweaty professor Richard Johnson has been trying to deal with a voodoo-induced plague of zombie flesh-eaters by shooting all of his dead patients in the bonce! Soon after arriving on the island of Matoul, four tourists (Farrow, McCulloch, Gay and Al Cliver) are chased around the island by the shuffling, glassy-eyed living dead, who move so slowly they are lucky their victims obligingly stand there and wait to be eaten. This widescreen feature is vividly photographed and has some impressively nasty set-pieces bolstered by excellent special effects. A highlight is the surreal scene where the lovely Aurette Gay goes skinny scuba-diving and encounters an underwater zombie and a shark! Elsewhere the flesh-eaters make a spectacular entrance, clawing their way out of the ground in an ancient graveyard for Spanish Conquistadors. This scene looks like it might have been inspired by a similar sequence in Hammer's *Plague Of The Zombies* (1966). The gore is typically excessive, with lots of cannibal movie-type pulling out of stringy entrails and munching on sweetmeats. Probably hardest to take is the bit where Olga Karlatos gets her eye punctured - in extreme close-up - on a wooden splinter. This sequence was conspicuously absent from the cut version, which was basically the same as the prints that went round cinemas with an X certificate in the early 80s. One of Fulci's most entertaining films (he appears in a cameo as a newspaper editor), it's marred slightly by a rather lacklustre ending. But the shot of zombies crossing the Brooklyn Bridge accompanied by hysterical radio reports is quite a laugh. What must those early morning US commuters have made of all this?

DVD Availability

When originally released to UK cinemas with an X certificate in 1979, this Fulci favourite had 14 cuts totalling 1 minute 41 secs. These included a 15-second cut of Olga Karlatos having her eye pierced by a splinter of



wood, then the deletion of almost all shots of Olga being eaten by zombies. All shots of blood gushing from Aurette Gay's throat after being bitten were also taken out, and various other bits of zombie mayhem. An additional 26 seconds were missing from the prologue showing a zombie being shot, but this was probably down to the distributor.

In the pre-VRA days, VIPCO released the above version on video. Later on they issued the uncut version at a premium price, which then got on the DPP list. After the VRA, VIPCO re-released the cinema version without any further cuts (cert18). They misleadingly described it as complete, as it was uncut compared with the cinema version.



The uncut version was finally made available a couple of years back. VIPCO have an uncut version now, but it's not as good quality a transfer as Anchor Bay's region free US disc. This has a great 2.35:1 anamorphic transfer, a remastered Dolby Digital 5.1 soundtrack, audio commentary with actor Ian McCulloch and lots more goodies. It's a toss-up between this and the equally stunning Shriek Show/Media Blasters disc, released after Anchor Bay's one.

Next Issue:

Just when you thought we'd reached the end of the Nasties, they're coming back for more gore! Will the nightmare never end?